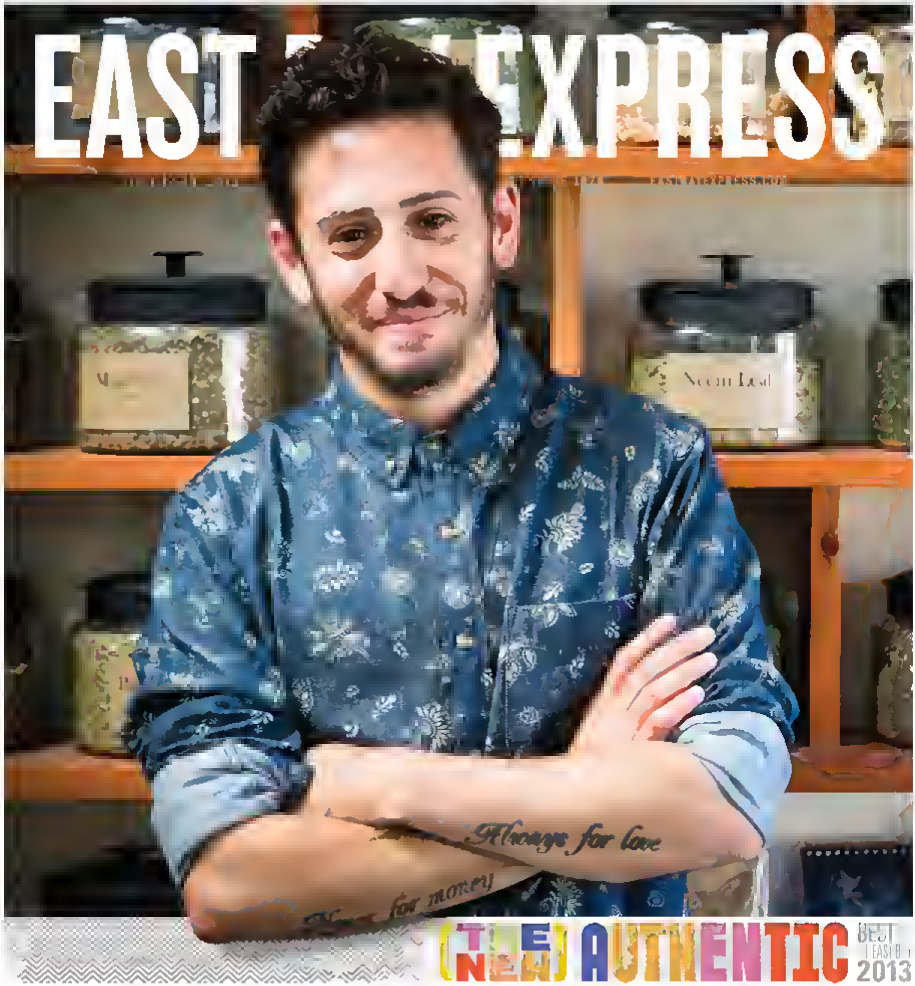

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On the Cover Humanitarian Apothecary owner Nic Weinstein. Photo by Stephen Lewinstein



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LETTERS

Plucakable

The people who make these decisions for Oakland — ultimately, the city council — couldn't successfully run a 7-11. See the Coliseum/Raiders deal. I have no brief for Goldman Sachs, but the incompetence and ignorance of Oakland's political leaders made them pluckable!

Kurt Schoeneman Boonville

The Problem with Prop 8

There may be a situation in which the Prop 8 standing ruling may prove problematic, but it wouldn't be on a Prop 215 situation. That's because if Prop 215 was declared unconstitutional, there would be individualized harm to individuals. People who use medical marijuana would be harmed as they risked jail and people who wanted to establish facilities would be harmed as they risked having their property taken away. When there is harm, there is standing. The problem with Prop 8 is that nobody was actually harmed by it being declared unconstitutional.

Margarita Lacabe, San Leandro

Easy Come, Easy Go

First Fridays and the Art Murmur are the best things that has happened to Oakland. They are what has put Oakland on the positive map globally. We can't lose the energy that has taken years to create. So easy to lose, so hard to maintain.

Leslie Smith, Oakland

Frightening

Yet another frightening example of the privatization of public resources. If university researchers are using public funding at a public university to conduct their studies, then the results of their work should be in the public domain. It's insane to turn over control of the results of this research to a group of businesspeople who have conflicts of interest. Even more insane to shelter them behind a private nonprofit beyond the reach of good government laws. Even if it could be proven that this is more profitable for the university (which apparently is in question), the growing use of public resources to fatten the wallets of entrepreneurs who know how to game the system is a betrayal of the public trust. The role of the regents is to protect the best interests of the University of California system, not to privatize profit and hope that it will trickle down to the university.

Laura Baker Oakland

A Wasteland

Thank you for a very informative article in the fall of 2012. UC clear-cut hundreds of eucalyptus trees on an area known as the Tolman grove, in Strawberry canyon just below the Lawrence Hall of Science, in a major landslide area. No vegetation was left to hold the hillside intact, when the next rainy season arrives.

The below photograph reflects Tom Klatt's and UC's preferred vision for Strawberry canyon. Take a trip down Centennial Drive from LHS and look over the railing into the devastated wasteland left behind by UC's clear-cutting.

No federal FEMA funds should support this wasteland vision!

Pamela Silvada Berkeley



A Flawed Argument

I often read your columns, sometimes agreeing and sometimes not. This one is flawed beyond repair. In your first paragraph you state "Drakes Bay Oyster Company has marketed itself as an environmentally sustainable business." That bubble burst on the oyster farm's image when the *Express* revealed that the company had teamed up with a group that has close ties to the ultra-conservative Koch Brothers."

Neither in your introductory paragraph nor in the rest of your article do you provide any theory, argument or proof why an organization of any particular leaning has an impact on the quality of the oyster company's success as an environmentally sustainable business. It appears that your intent was to simply list a whole bunch of conservative groups and thereby conclude that their politics make Drakes Bay not environmentally sustainable.

That isn't even a weak argument. You have not made any cause-and-effect supposition or even made a logical connection between a self described environmentally sustainable business with three so-called conservative organizations that have another position than yours. It may be the case, but perhaps those organizations have simply taken on an innocent and in fact environmentally sustainable business to forward the organizations larger objectives.

I am not a journalist but have spent some long hours and years in the world of environmental law. We uniformly made sure we had a sustainable argument. You don't, and give me no reason to think that Drakes Bay is anything other than a sustainable business.

Tom Lauderback Oakland

Corrections

Our June 12 and June 19 cover stories, "Tunnel Vision: Part One: Delta in Peril" and "Tunnel Vision: Part Two: Rivers in Peril," misstated the length of Governor Jerry Brown's proposed water tunnels. They are currently proposed to be 35 miles long — not 40 miles. The length we reported came from an earlier proposal of the water tunnels that has since been changed by the Brown administration.

Our July 10 cover story, "Balancing the Scales of Justice," should have stated that each lawyer in the Alameda County Public Defender's office assigned to felony cases carries an average of 273 of them per year (not at a time) while attorneys responsible for misdemeanors oversee 353 cases on average annually (not at a time).

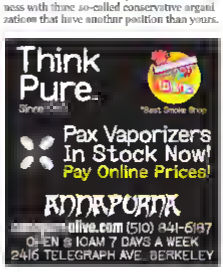
The Express Wins More Awards

The Express won two awards in the annual Association of Alternative Newsmedia contest. Contributor Rachel Swan won a first place award in the arts feature category for her cover story "The Shrinking Stage," which detailed how Bay Area theater companies were forced to book one-person shows to save money during the recession. And co-editor Kathleen Richards won a third-place award in the long form news category for her cover story, "How Much Garbage Does It Take to Treat a Patient?" Her report shed light on the fact that the medical industry has been slow to recycle.

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number. Although we will only print your name, city and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 1920 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.







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BROWN DOES BUSH

The governor has a "Mission Accomplished" moment.

By Robert Gammon

Although Jerry Brown wasn't standing on an aircraft carrier when he declared last month's age that the "prison crisis is over in California," his pronouncement, on Tuesday night, resembles the infamous one that then-President George W. Bush made in 2003 aboard the *USS Abraham Lincoln* about the Iraq War more than eight years before the war actually ended. In fact, California's prison system may be the state's most dysfunctional bureaucracy — even worse than Caltrans.

The recent scandals have been disarming. Last week, tens of thousands of prisoners launched a hunger strike statewide, protesting the abusive use of solitary confinement in California, in which prisoners have been held alone in their cells for ten years or more. At one point, about 30,000 prisoners were refusing to eat and by the weekend, more than 9,000 inmates had been on an extended hunger strike.

Then last week, the Berkeley-based Center for Investigative Reporting revealed that nearly 150 female inmates had been coerced into being sterilized by prison medical staff during the past decade. State prison officials subsequently verified the report.

Then there's the deadly fungal disease. Last week, inmates who had contracted valley fever — which can be fatal, sued the state for failing to address a massive outbreak of it at Avenal and Pleasant Valley state prisons in the Central Valley. State prison officials had refused to relocate inmates even though it could have helped stanch the spread of valley fever. Eventually, federal Judge Thelton Henderson ordered the state to move the sick prisoners.

Another federal judge, meanwhile, ordered an investigation into troubling accounts of severe mistreatment of prisoners at Salinas Valley State Prison's psychiatric unit. Although US District Judge Lawrence Karlton didn't specifically name the governor in his order — he appeared to allude to Brown's foolhardy pronouncement six months ago about the prison crisis supposedly having ended, saying that state officials had "simply divorced themselves from reality."

And divorced from reality is exactly where the governor and state prison officials seem intent on remaining. While some prisons are so overcrowded that inmates are forced to sleep on floors, Brown is appealing a federal appellate court order to immediately release 10,000 prisoners to relieve the overcrowding problem. "We are confident that if the US Supreme Court takes a look at the dramatic improvements in California's prison system, the justices will find we are providing constitutional care," Deborah Hoffman, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, told the *Los Angeles Times* apparently with a straight face.

"They have decided to circle the wagons and keep this system that exists today as intact as possible," tales Label, this president of the Center for Constitutional Rights and the lead lawyer in a federal lawsuit over solitary confinement, told the *The New York Times*.

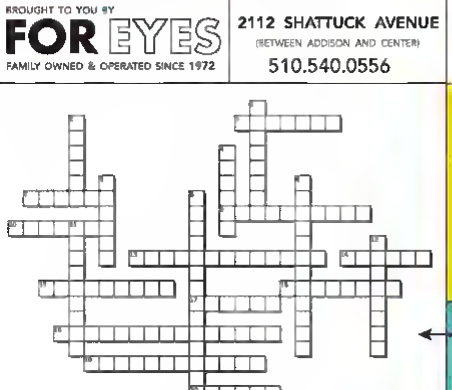
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Credit to Kernighan

Oakland Council President Pat Kernighan told the *Oakland Tribune* last week that she's scheduling a special hearing on July 25 to consider whether the council should officially censure Councilwoman Desley Brooks for her apparent illegal activities involving the creation of an expensive teen center in East Oakland. As we've noted, four separate investigations uncovered convincing evidence that Brooks had violated city and state laws, and yet the council has done nothing about it. Kernighan, as such, deserves credit for pushing forward with the censure proposal. She said she believes it will help restore the public's trust in local government. We agree.

Kernighan and other council members also deserve credit for saying they will look at ways to strengthen the city's Public Ethics Commission. As we noted last week, the Alameda County Grand Jury not only criticized the council for failing to censure Brooks, but also noted that the council had failed to give the ethics commission the authority to hire or otherwise punish public officials who engage in wrongdoing.

Credit to OPD

Oakland police, under the command of Interim Police Chief Sean Whent, also deserve credit for showing restraint during protests in downtown Oakland over the weekend that turned ugly when a splinter group started smashing windows and assaulting journalists. In the wake of the not-guilty ruling in the killing of unarmed teenager Trayvon Martin in Florida, OPD didn't overreact — like it has in the past — and as a result, the public's outrage has been directed entirely at the vandals rather than police — as it should be, considering the fact that the violent demonstrators trashed innocent small businesses like Awaken Café.

Joel Young Censured

And speaking of helping restore trust in government, the AC Transit Board of Directors voted last week to censure board member Joel Young for his use of confidential agency information for private gain. The vote was 5-0 in favor of censure. Young, who has denied wrongdoing, was not present for the vote. ●

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

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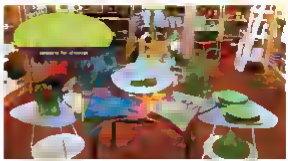
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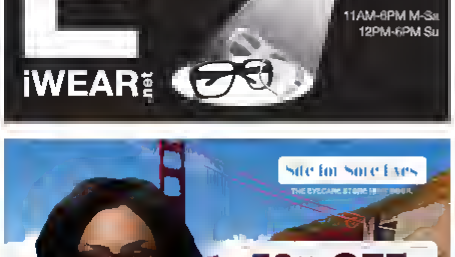




FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF BUSINESSES & EVENTS

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BUD LIT: A 2013 SUMMER READING GUIDE

Legalization Nation collects the highlights of 2013 cannabis nonfiction so far

By David Downs

With kick back and relax during your vacation this summer when you can give your brain a workout with the best cannabis nonfiction of the year? We're talking about key messaging for the California legalization battle of 2016 (yes, that's happening), pot-growing exposés, pee-test explanations, a field guide for bird watching, and some baked Italian recipes.

Marijuana Is Safer. So Why Are We Driving People to Drink?

The activists who made marijuana legal in Colorado have updated the research in their 2009 book, and have included a first draft of history — as told by the victors in Colorado Safer Alternative for Enjoyable Recreation (SAFER) director Mason Tvert, NORML's Paul Armentano, and Marijuana Policy Project's Steve Fox explain how the SAFER-led Amendment 64 effort garnered more votes in Colorado than President Obama in the November 2012 election.

In 2005, after two fatal alcohol poisonings at a college in Boulder, SAFER homed in on core problem with the legalization argument. Up to two-thirds of American believe cannabis is as dangerous or more dangerous than alcohol. In truth, alcohol is associated with two-thirds of all domestic violence incidents, anywhere from 30 to 50 percent of all violent crime, and about 100,000 sexual assaults each year. Ex-Seattle Police Chief Norm Stamper provides a sharp contrast in the foreword: "It is abundantly clear that marijuana is rarely, if ever the cause of harmfully disruptive or violent behavior."

Humboldt: Life on America's Marijuana Frontier

Columbia University journalism school graduate and Sonoma County native Emily Brady spent a year in the epicenter of domestic cannabis production — the Emerald Triangle of Northern California, which includes Mendocino County and Humboldt counties — to explore the ethos of "keep weed illegal" a policy that props up crop prices, land values and an entire way of life.

Brady effectively draws you into the story of four eccentric dopers — Mare, Crockett Emma, and Bob — who are real people (and the book details real events in their lives), although Brady changed their names and fictionalized their identifying characteristics to protect them. A small glossary of Humboldt terms such as "CAMP," "diesel dope," and "hipneck," opens the paperback book. Humboldt is truly a world unto itself.

Marijuana Smoker's Guidebook: The Easy Way to Identify and Enjoy Marijuana Strains

For many Americans, weed is weed. But in the Bay Area Bender Seattle and other cannabis hubs, it's "OG Kush" or "Grand Daddy Purple" or several hundred other varietal names. And Matt Mernagh, a grower activist, and writer, has compiled a small, handy, full-color paperback with 150 descriptions of the world's most popular strains.

Mernagh describes, for example, Juicy Fruit as being "like the gum: its effects are not long lasting, ... [but its] heavy and beautiful bag-appealing buds make it a commercial cropper for fruity flavored strains." Big Buddha Cheese's stank will give you away in public at 100 paces. ... The really relaxing stone is great for a slow, lazy afternoon." Mango is "packed with ripe, melon richness" and "will have you flying out the door without a jittery, too much coffee effect."

Baked Italian

Edibles are evolving past sweet treats like pot brownies and dankies (medicated Twinkies) and into savory healthy dishes. Billing itself as a "high-end marijuana cookbook for the Jamie Oliver generation," *Baked Italian* contains more than fifty gourmet recipes and one hundred images along with step-by-step instructions.

Weed is a spicy, harsh-tasting plant that's difficult to cook because of its flavor sensations, and inability to dissolve in water. *Baked Italian* tackles the sticky pungent herb head-on with five extraction techniques using butter, oil, milk, Campari vodka and gin. Subsequent recipes counteract the problematic flavor texture, and solubility, of cannabis. They include marijuana infused spaghetti marinara arancini lemon panna cotta mint gin and coffee gelato.

California NORML Guide to Drug Testing

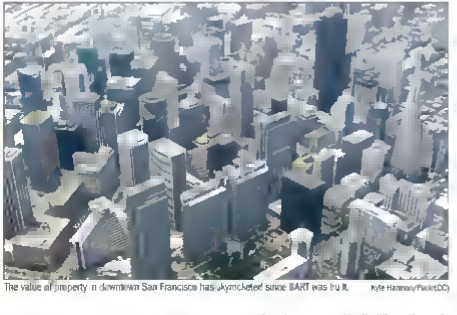
Dale Gieringer heads the California chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, has released a primer on the very widespread and consequential practice of drug testing for marijuana. The 44-page, fact-packed booklet covers the kinds of drug testing medical cannabis patients might encounter at work, on the road, and in the delivery room, as well as the astoundingly shitty reliability of the tests.

Gieringer sat in on the California Center for Medical Cannabis Research at UC San Diego and details factors that can confound weed tests. For example, common body soaps can make an infant test positive for pot. The guide also explains the dark art of beating common workplace urinalysis through dilution, mids and dumpering, and provides concrete data on exactly how marijuana can impair an automobile driver and how much weed is needed to do so.

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The value of property in downtown San Francisco has skyrocketed since BART was built. Kyle Hammon/Flickr(CC)

NEWS

BART'S BIG GIFT TO WEALTHY CORPORATIONS

The transit agency says it doesn't have enough cash to give modest raises to workers, but that's because the large corporations that have benefited the most from its services pay almost nothing for them

By Darwin BondGraham

BART's board of directors, many of whom were elected on progressive, pro-labor platforms, have taken a hard line against employees at the bargaining table, arguing that the transit system is starved for cash. In truth, however, BART's financial documents show that the agency regularly diverts tens of millions of tax dollars each year that could be used to fund day-to-day operations — including worker salaries — toward expensive expansion projects such as the planned rail extensions to San Jose and distant East Bay suburbs. Moreover, transportation experts say that BART has, in effect, provided massive financial subsidies to corporations and large land owners that have benefited the most from its services by exempting them from having to help pay for the system.

In fact, BART is funded almost entirely through regressive means — fees and taxes that impact low-income consumers the most. Currently passenger fares and local sales tax revenues make up 87 percent of all revenue in BART's operating budget. In addition BART diverts some of these funds to pay for capital projects including rail extensions.

But transit policy experts say that revenues generated by sales taxes and rider fares are poor sources of funding for system expansion. Moreover, the diversion of such funds to capital projects means that BART is effectively underfunding operations and maintenance, and squeezing the pay and benefits of its workforce in the process. Transit experts say that this has made BART appear starved for money and is one at the causes of the strike that choked the Bay Area two weeks ago — and could do so again in August.

Worse still, experts say the biggest beneficiaries of the BART system — large corporations and real estate owners around the stations, especially in downtown San Francisco — have paid virtually nothing toward BART's costs during the past several decades. It doesn't have to be this way though. BART has the authority under California law to seek revenue from more progressive sources, such as taxing the increase in land values its system has helped create. If BART tapped into this major revenue stream it could reduce fares for riders build out the system, minimize its dependence on difficult-to-obtain federal grants, and avoid the labor-management conflicts over the budget that precipitated the strike.

According to Robert Cervero a professor of urban and reg onal planning at UC Berkeley, BART has failed to tap into potentially enormous streams of funding since it was built in the early 1970s. One of the biggest funding sources for the system's initial construction and expansion should have been special real estate taxes levied on property owners who then experienced enormous land value increases after BART stations were built. BART publicly funded transit system, created huge windfall profits for the owners of land and buildings near train stations, particularly in downtown San Francisco.

"BART has not been anywhere near as entrepreneurial as other transit agencies around the world in leveraging the real estate land value increases it helps create around stations in helping to pay for the system," noted Cervero.

To understand this lost opportunity Cervero has conducted several detailed studies of how land values in parts of the Bay Area changed after BART's construction His findings, confirmed by other researchers show that land owners in downtown San Francisco mostly large corporations saw dramatic appreciation of their property values in the 1970s through the '90s thanks to BART. Over the years, the train system has delivered millions of suburban workers to major corporate employers in San Francisco's downtown, thereby helping those companies thrive and expand. Office rental rates and land values also exploded upward after BART's construction. "Failing to exploit real estate land value increases BART has helped to create is a huge missed opportunity," said Cervero.

BART has instead continued to rely on sales taxes and federal tax dollars to fund the system's expansion, even though the operations and maintenance costs to keep the current system in shape have grown even thin years.

Richard Marcantonio of Public Advocates, a nonprofit law firm engaged in transportation policy likens transit budgeting practices in the Bay Area to cannibalism. "We're cannibalizing the existing system to build these politically popular expansions." Marcantonio explained "BART has been shifting operations money to capital money, and over the years this upstreaming uses up funds that could be spent on the existing system in order to expand it. The result is that you end up having less and less to operate and maintain the system you already have."

The strike that shut down BART two weeks ago was caused partly by this inequitable status quo, according to Marcantonio. "When the time comes for unions to re-up their contracts with BART and the unions then strike because they don't want to take a pay cut, you have this false story line going out that the reason as workers are asking for too much pay" said Marcantonio. "The real reason is that we're starving the system for the operations dollars actually needed."

Marcantonio also compared BART's budget problems to world hunger "There's plenty of food out there, but the question is how you distribute it."

Here's how the distribution currently breaks down. According to BART's 2013 adopted budget passenger fares supply 57 percent of the agency's funding. Sales taxes levied in San Francisco, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties cover another 30 percent of BART's fiscal needs. Property taxes make up less than 3 percent of BART's budget, even though the system's impact on real estate values in a few Bay Area hotspots has been immense.

BART then diverts a big chunk of the sales tax revenues it receives to its capital budget, and while that funding includes covering costs associated with maintaining the current system it also involves spending money on system expansion. Sales tax receipts collected by or granted to BART from other state and local agencies also are used to pay off bonds associated with previous extensions of the rail system. Additionally certain passengers fare surcharges go toward paying off the bonds used to build out the BART system. Other California and regional sales taxes are already earmarked to fund expansion projects like the planned BART line to Warm Springs in Fremont and the extension planned for eastern Contra Costa County BART also plans to steadily hike fares over the coming years to fund operations.

All these highly regressive sources of funding — which ultimately fail to generate enough revenue for BART to divide among operations, maintenance, and expansion — leave transit experts like Tom Gihring and Jeffery Smith scratching their heads. Gihring and Smith study land use and transit finance policies, and advise local governments in the Pumba Northwest. Like Berkeley in Cervero, they say the best way to finance new transit infrastructure and pay for the expansion of existing systems, is to "capture" the value created by the public's investment when the system annexation is built.

"There is ample evidence that rail transit enhances land values near transit stations," Gihring told me. Gihring, Smith and their colleague Todd Litman of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute in Canada have compiled a list of more than one hundred studies showing the link between transit investments and real estate values around the world.

"A basic principle in liberal economic theory holds that legitimately created value belongs to the creator of that value," wrote Gihring and Smith in a study of transit funding policies published in the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology* in 2006. "Hence, government in its role as steward of publicly created values is justified in collecting what the community has given." Gihring and Smith advocate that these funds be used to pay back bondholders who finance a transit project and to make down payments on future improvements.

"It is fair for public jurisdictions to recapture publicly generated land-value increases, Smith told me. Smith laments the fact that BART never used such a strategy to raise funds for system construction and expansion. "That was the plan of some back when [Ronald] Reagan was governor and the Mills Act was passed into law to fund transit systems with assessment districts empowered to recover the resultant rise in site values."

Cervero contends that the best way to implement funding for BART "would be to create a benefit assessment district" around its major stations, especially in downtown San Francisco. "Typically benefit assessment districts require the majority of property owners in the district to approve the district and the cost aside at funds for BART," he said "This would not run afoul of Prop 13."

BART's existing powers an granted under the California Public Utilities Code, in fact provide the agency with the option of pursuing these revenue-enhancement strategies, also known as land value recapture. BART is authorized to create special assessment districts that could tax real estate around newly built stations, for example, and use those funds to pay off bonds that paid for the station expansion and other expenses

Large commercial property owners in the Bay Area however have traditionally resisted such proposals to fund BART and other transit projects. "Those are certain parties many far more political influence than you and me" noted Smith

"Land value recapture is a great idea," Marcantonio agreed. But he added that many large property owners oppose such ideas and think, "Why should we fork over our windfall profits when you people can pay?"

Such a fight would be an uphill fight to convince real estate interests and corporations in San Francisco to agree to pay taxes to help BART when there's no incentive for them to do so — since the system has been serving them for decades. However that may not necessarily be the case for land owners and companies that stand to benefit greatly if BART is extended to them in the future.

"All of this works best if a transit agency takes this on early on the process," explained Cervero. "It's tougher to do with a mature, built up system. [But] no BART extends lines to Livermore, San Jose, etc., it should consider introducing these kinds of assessment tools for properties near planned stations."

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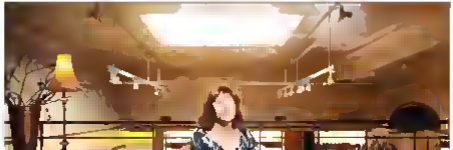
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Marsha McBride, owner of Café Rouge, says the proposal could force her to cut employee benefits. Brad Kenow

NEWS

PROPOSED MINIMUM WAGE HIKE SPARKS CONFLICT

Some Berkeley restaurant owners want tipped employees to be exempted from the plan to raise the city's minimum wage to $10.55 an hour

By Elly Schmidt-Hopper

California's $8-an-hour minimum wage is infamously low considering the high cost of living in the Bay Area. Few people would argue with that. However Berkeley's proposed minimum wage increase, to $10.55 an hour, which the city council hopes to enact by the end of the year has spurred impassioned protests from a key segment of the business community: the owners of fine dining restaurants who claim to already provide employees with good wages and benefits.

The controversy concerns the hourly wage of tipped workers, who typically make $8 an hour but can end a shift with $100 to $ 300 in cash, depending on the restaurant. At fine dining establishments, servers are often already the best paid employees and make far in excess of the state minimum wage when tips are included. As a result, some restaurant owners say that increasing the tipped workers hourly wage to $10.55 an hour is unnecessary — and may bankrupt their businesses in the process.

"It will cost us about $450,000 a year to increase the waiters' wage," said Marsha McBride, who has owned and operated Café Rouge in Berkeley's Fourth Street shopping district since 1996. Her business combines a neighborhood restaurant with a high-quality meat market in one building. Despite Café Rouge's success, McBride said that her profit margin is thin because she invests in quality ingredients and takes care of her employees.

A chef herself, McBride has tried to equalize the typically stark contrast in wages between the serving staff and the kitchen staff by paying her cooks decent wages. All her back-of-the-house employees already make more than $10.55 an hour, in some cases significantly more (she said senior line-cooks can make close to $20 an hour) and receive a generous benefit package. Employees who work at least 32 hours a week are eligible for health insurance, vacation time, sick days, and a 401(k).

McBride said that her tipped workers are the only employees making minimum wage and that increasing their hourly rate by $2.55 would make the restaurant less viable financially. "I break even. I don't even make money," she said. "I don't know what I'll do."

As a result of the proposed minimum wage increase, McBride said she may have to reduce her benefits package for all fifty employees and freeze raises for the kitchen staff and dishwashers — actions that she believes are unfair and will strain relations between the front- and back-of-the-house workers. "I pay higher wages than most people and I'm getting penalized because someone down the street is a sleepskimp," she said at a Berkeley Labor Commission subcommittee meeting earlier this month.

Berkeley restaurant owners like McBride are advocating for a tipped-worker exemption from the minimum wage increase, and want to keep tipped workers at the current $8 minimum wage. Such an exemption does not exist under California law, but in other states follow federal law, which gives restaurants latitude in how much they pay servers per hour — as long as the total pay, all wages and tips combined is no less than the federal minimum wage of $7.25 and the hourly wage is at least $2.13.

However members of the Berkeley Labor Commission subcommittee on the minimum wage increase — Angus Teter, Irene Yu and Steve Kessler — appear to be reticent to include a tipped worker exemption in their proposal to the Berkeley City Council. They noted that many restaurants in Berkeley do not offer fine dining, and that servers at less-expensive eateries need a stable wage that isn't vulnerable to tip fluctuations and unscrupulous manipulation. "We want businesses to grow, but we also want labor to be secure," said committee member Yu at the July 2 meeting.

Teter agreed, adding that a citywide tipped-worker exemption would be "a huge exemption."

Their assumption is that there is a wide range of tip rates in Berkeley — some servers easily make $25 an hour in tips, while others make just $25 in a full day. Van Nguyen, a coordinator at the Bay Area Restaurant Opportunities Center United (ROC United) which works to unify restaurant workers and advocate for workers rights, told me that many tipped workers in the Bay Area are struggling, and that the majority are women and people of color.

"In reality the majority of tipped workers don't work in high-end places," Nguyen said. "Most restaurant workers have fluctuating tips and have a hard time with stability. I don't think an exception should be made for a few restaurants. It's really about raising the floor for all restaurant workers."

Berkeley is not the first city in the Bay Area to consider upping its minimum wage. San Francisco already has increased its rate to $10.55 an hour — the highest in the nation. And in San Jose, the minimum wage is now $10 an hour although reports vary between representatives of the restaurant industry and the government, so far the increased wages have not unreasonably damaged the restaurant industry in either city.

But Berkeley restaurant owners are quick to point out that the demographics in Berkeley are different than in San Francisco and San Jose, and are worried that if restaurants increase prices to pay for the minimum-wage hike, some customers will simply stop coming. Natalie Kness, a founder of the Berkeley Restaurant Alliance — an organization that represents more than 150 restaurants in Berkeley — and co-owner of Bistro Liaison, disagrees with both the subcommittee and ROC United. She contends that none of the members of the subcommittee have enough experience in restaurants or in making payroll and said that a representative from the business community should be included in the recommendation process to make it fair and balanced.

Kness is particularly perturbed by the fact that the proposal is an immediate 32 percent increase, instead of being tiered, and thinks that the subcommittee's intention to peg Berkeley's minimum wage to San Francisco's is flawed. "We are not economically or demographically similar to San Francisco," she said. "There's no comparison in the two cities." Plus, have the tourism. They have the convention business. Our town shuts down in the summer when that campus closes. Everybody is gone. We are not San Francisco or San Jose ... it doesn't make any sense economically."

Despite the fact that emotions are running high over the issue, there might be a solution that will benefit at least the restaurants that offer health care and vacation time. After hearing McBride's testimony, committee member Yu suggested that the subcommittee investigate the possibility of adding a phrase to exempt restaurants that already provide tipped employees with benefits like health care, and sick days. She explained that they could create a differential. "If you're paying health care and paid vacations you might already be paying [tipped workers] over $10.55," she said.

Such a clause would help restaurant owners like McBride, who already offers benefits to employees, but knows full that, although she wishes she could provide the same for her employees her business does not make enough profit to do so. Should the minimum wage increase pass, she said she's not sure how she will afford it. "Raising prices? Cutting hours? Hiring freezes? Wage freezes?" Kness wondered. "It doesn't benefit everybody, and that is the main issue about this."

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Arts & Culture

(THE NEW) AUTHENTIC BEST 2013



Music author Carry Oakland weekly event Off the Grid at the Oakland Museum of California. Stephen Lowenstein

MUSIC AUTHENTIC WEEKLY EVENT

Off the Grid OMCA

Fridays, 5 p.m. 9 p.m
1000 Oak St., Oakland

Just six months after it started it n almost hard to imagine Oakland without thn weekly street party-slash-concert-slash food festival-slash museum event that is the weekly Off the Grid at the Oakland Museum of California Not only does OTG uncheck and highlight some of the East Bay s best food musics and art and act as probably the only event in the East Bay where you can find a killer Korean-fusion burrito hvn salsa music, free kids craft activities and discounted access to one of the best museums in the state, all in one place It attracts a truly diverse, distinctly Oakland collection of people bnth kids and big kids hipsters and hippies out of towners and lifelong Oaklanders, art aficionados foodies natural-science geeks people who just want to sit in the sunshine and watch the whole teeming vital thing unfold around them There s truly something for everyone at Off the Grid Oakland and it s truly something.

BEST ART GALLERY

Krowswork

480 23rd St., Oakland, 510-226-7635, Krowswork.com

Oakland is gaining recognition as a visual arts destination and the rising tide has certainly lifted many boats. How however hevn presented a directional sensibility as focused and bold — or stuck to it as steadfastly — as Jasmine Moorhead at Krowswork. The gallery was established as an exhibition space for video art and photography — the format of which remains relatively marginal in contemporary art despite its wealth of potential — and it continues to serve as a first-rate platform for these media Recently, however the gallery expanded the scope of its programming to include a performance series and several immersive site-specific installations in which artists took full advantage of the gallery s unique, slightly subterranean space Ursula Brookbanks *Sim World* which turned Krowswork into a catacomb of feminum detritus that viewers explored by flashlight was a memorable winter exhibition. And its annual *Summer of Video Art* should not be missed.

BEST FEMINIST COMEDY DUO

Kelly Anneken and Isa Hopkins

Farnikaze.com

Kelly Anneken and Isa Hopkins founders of Oakland sketch comedy troupe Farnikaze make advocating for equal representation — of women, queers, people of color, and people of all body types in comedy — well a hilariously good time. When they're not relaying true stories about slipping in human feces on BART retelling fairytales with a queer twist or lovingly ripping on NPR Hopkins and Anneken are running the online humor journal Hobo Pancakes and hosting readings of their gender-bending serenpity about Pitt agents iconting ont a white supremacist cult in rural Alaha. As if that s not enough Anneken also acts as host of Monday Night Comedy at Farley s East and curator of Pandora s comedy station. Just a couple of Midwestern gals promoting the "radical notion that women are funny" these comedy innovators wouldn t be more at home in the East Bay

BEST ALL WOMEN SAMBA GROUP

Las Bomberas de la Bahia

Founded in 2007 Las Bomberas de la Bahia are the Bay Area s only all-women ensemble to perform *bombas* a music and dance style that originated from African


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BEST UNDERGROUND WAREHOUSE
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slaves who worked Puerto Rico's sugarcane plantations. Traditionally, *bomba* drums are played by men, while women sing and dance, but in Las Bambaras the nine members handle all the duties. The music often employs call and response between the seated drummers and the standing vocalists, while one dancer commands the stage. Her movements quickening to the music's crescendo. Audience members cheer at the flirtations between dancer and drummers, join in on the songs' repetitive lyrics, and may even be invited to thrust shoulders and hips alongside the Bombineras. A collective of activists, educators, and artists, Las Bambaras perform at La Peña Cultural Center, Women of Color Media Arts Project, in the streets of the Mission, and at Women's Day celebrations — keeping *bomba* alive in the Bay.

BEST LONG-STANDING PERFORMING ARTS [illegible] VENUE

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts

336 11th St., Richmond, 510-234-5824, EastBayCenter.org

In 1968, the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts was established as an arts education center for youth in Richmond's infamous "Iron Triangle." Two years ago, it got a radical renovation thanks to a $16 million urban renewal capital campaign. Designed by architect Mark Cavagnero — who's also responsible for San Francisco's snazzy new SFJAZZ Center — the new space maintains the building's 1920 Beaux Arts facade, but incorporates floor-to-ceiling windows on the first floor, supported by massive steel cross beams — which both display the performers inside and create a connection to Richmond's historic WWII shipyards. The East Bay Center for Performing Arts teaches African-American classical European, Laotian, and Central Mexican music and dance as well as theater, new media, and improvisational poetry, and features exhibitions by established artists. Though its physical home has transformed, the center's impact hasn't wavered over the past 45 years — enabling youth marginalized by poverty and violence to create a better life for themselves through the study of the performing arts.

MOST UNLIKELY MUSIC AND ART VENUE

Children's Fairyland

699 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, 510-452-2259, FairylandOrg

Typically, adults are only admitted to Children's Fairyland if they're accompanying kids. But occasional nighttime events give grown-ups the rare opportunity to take over the storybook-themed amusement park. For example, last fall's Magic Lantern event featured video art installations and live music curated by Fairyland staff, plus local food trucks. The reflection of colorful videos on the 1950s storybook sculptures — dragons, mushrooms, and Willie the big blue whale, to name a few — transformed them into surrealist art pieces. Meanwhile, adults sipped wine and beer inside The Jolly Roger Pirate Ship and gathered on the lawn to watch local experimental bands on the outdoor stage. It was all the wonder and weirdness of Fairyland, but with alcohol and without the kids.

BEST STREET ARTIST

GATS

GATSGraffiti.Tumblr.com

Oakland is brimming with talented street artists, but only one of them has drawn comparisons to Michelangelo — the highly prolific fiercely anonymous GATS (Graffiti Against The System). His trademark image — a tribal mask that looks both mythical and modern — is plastered all over the East Bay

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Wedding Announcements

We are thrilled and honored to finally be putting this page together. Congratulations to ALL happy couples who are tying the knot.



Maria & Stephanie

July 24, 2013

Ronald and Kathy Jo Lindner of La Salle, IL are proud to announce the wedding of their daughter Maria Lindner to Stephanie Moore, residents of Berkeley, CA, transplants from Chicago, IL. Ms. Lindner & Ms. Moore will be married July 24, 2013 at San Francisco City Hall to take part in a historical event at a historical location. They will be attended by Ms. Lindner's cousin Debra and Ms. Moore's other son Anne. We wish them many years of love and happiness.



Topher & Ben

August 22, 2013

Topher Kimball McMullin, son of Mr. Kimball Ray McMullin and Mrs. Lisa Mullins McMullin of St. Louis, MO, and Benjamin Ahuah Barry, son of Ms. Linda Barry of Sydney, Australia will be married August 22, 2013. Their ceremony will be held at City Hall in San Francisco. The couple will celebrate their marriage with family and friends on their one year anniversary. The couple is also excited and honored to be a beneficiary of the Supreme Court's overturning of DOMA as they will be applying for Benjamin's permanent status in the United States immediately following their ceremony.



Penny & Jennifer

June 29, 2013

Penny Hunbah, mother of Henry Hunbah O'Connell, and Jennifer Cobley, mother of Adele and Pavel Leite, were married on June 29, 2013 at City Hall in San Francisco. Since joining households in 2008 they had planned to marry as soon as it was legally possible. So on the first Saturday after the Supreme Court decision on Prop 8, they gathered their children and as many friends and family as were available on short notice to have their relationship legally recognized. They are planning a reception for the fall of this year and are looking forward to bringing their family and friends together to celebrate the love.

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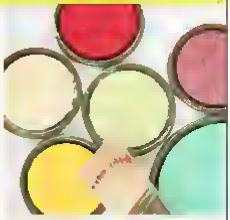


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adams stroll

in the morning before the crowds descend — *judy herrmann*

Sunday Streets, Berkeley

So fun to walk and roll along Shattuck with no cars! Also some excellent booths and music — man, music pleases! I liked seeing stores and businesses I had not noticed before, altho I drive and ride my bicycle along the same street often — *Seema Hendley*

How Burning Can you Be

bring it back! — *bob2353*

oakland stop-motion cat video festival

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BEST ARTIST

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Grell Bourgeat

From hand drawings, design, to tattoo work — he's a visionary and the best the Bay Area has to offer — *Blake Race*

Grand Daly

paints this town all pretty — *Trailer Motel*

Tom Franco

sculptor and painter http://tomfranco.blogspot.com/ — *Tom Franco*

BEST ART GALLERY

Rosamo Ceramic

It is so hip edgy urban. Very well curated Derik is the best — *Leslie Smith*

The Shrunks

ABSOLUTELY an other gallery showcases the cutting edge and epic works like Oakland's streets — *kristin*

TRAX Gallery

Amazing and beautiful works! A place for cutting edge work in the field. TRAX Gallery is inspiring, innovative and grounding all at once! Highest Recommendation! — *melissa lambert*

It can appear friendly or foreboding, with eyes that seem to watch over the streets like those of a small godly. In a video produced by Arm OTHER, UC Berkeley new media professor Greg Niemeyer compared GATS to Michelangelo for being "a foundational artist who teaches us about seeing the world in a different way." GATS is also featured in the video — with a blurred face and altered voice to ensure anonymity — in which he explains that the mask is meant to be "a fuck you to authority figures" and a symbol of freedom of speech. One of GATS most famous works — which reads "Welcome to West Oakland" next to a mask that features a blue, tentacle-like beard — appears on an abandoned storefront at Martin Luther King Jr. Way and 29th Street.

BEST AFFORDABLE ART GALLERY

LeQuiVive

1525 Webster St., Oakland, 510-499-1789, LeQuiViveGallery.com

LeQuiVive opened last year after Famous Feat Collins gave up its gallery space to focus on its clothing line. Picking up where that gallery left off, LeQuiVive has curated group and solo shows for some of the city's most promising local artists, including Cannon Dill, Billi Sprague, and Max Kauffman. LeQuiVive co-owners Michael Broberg and Sorel Ramos-Tait keep one foot in the gallery and another in the street, giving spray paint muralists like Dill an opportunity to exhibit their artwork. The prices are accessible for budding collectors; small drawings at Dill's solo show were priced as low as $30, and T-shirts and prints were available for even less. Artists who show at LeQuiVive also regularly contribute to large-scale public art pieces for which Broberg often buys supplies and brokers wall space. Check out the gallery on First Fridays, when the lower-priced art tends to sell out fast.

BEST CAT OBSESSED LOCAL MUSICIAN

Adam Myatt

Dubbed "The Cat Man of West Oakland" by the *Express*, Adam Myatt proudly accepts the fact that his love of cats is as notable as his electro-pop band James & Evander. The 26-year-old musician started photographing feral cats in his West Oakland neighborhood a few years ago, but Instagram and a successful Kickstarter campaign helped put his so-called "hoodcats" — Dumpster-diving, fur tangled world weary street cats of the Healthcliff variety — on the map. Last year Myatt raised nearly $1,500 on Kickstarter to produce a 2013 calendar and its 125 copies quickly sold out. Myatt is planning a 2014 calendar (and promises he'll make more copies) for which he's collecting photos daily on his Instagram account @CatManOfWestOakland. His "catman" duties have even extended to helping local nonprofit Cat Town Oakland place cats in permanent and foster homes, and acting as the official DJ for the first Oakland Internet Cat Video Festival.

BEST NEWLY ARRIVED EAST BAY MUSICIAN

Bill Baird

Psych-pop composer Bill Baird moved from his native Austin to study experimental music at Mills College and he's since

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

MICHAEL TILSON THOMAS MUSIC DIRECTOR

SUMMER AND THE SYMPHONY

JULY–AUGUST 2013



REST OF REETHOVEN

- THU JULY 18 7:30PM

Works include Beethoven's *Egmont* Overture Piano Concerto No. 3 and Symphony No.

GREAT AMERICAN MUSIC

- FRI JULY 19 7:30PM

Works include Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* Copland's *Rodeo* and more

AMERICA'S CUP REST OF TCHAIKOVSKY WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

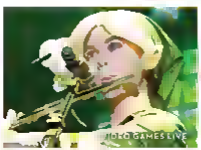
- SAT JULY 20 7PM

Tickets on sale this ugh La veMotion com

BERNADETTE PETERS

- TUE JULY 23 8PM

Enjoy a magical evening of song that will show why Bernadette Peters dazzles as one of the great Americ n cultural



VIDEO GAMES LIVE™

- THU JULY 25 7:30PM
- FRI JULY 26 7:30PM

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DISNEY IN CONCERT MAGICAL MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES

- SUN JULY 28 2PM

Listen and watch as Disney stories come to life through melodious film clips and more

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EISENSTEIN'S *BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN*—FILM WITH ORGANIST CAMERON CARPENTER

- SUN JULY 28 7:30PM

Acclaimed organist Cameron Carpenter brings this monumental film to life playing the score live while the film is projected above the stage

CARMINA BURANA

- TUE JULY 30 7:30PM

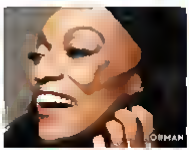
You've heard it everywhere even if you don't know it. Covered by everyone from Orff Ochsenne to Charlotte Church its visceral choruses, thundering percussion, and blazing brass pack a massive punch

JERRY GARCIA SYMPHONIC CELEBRATION WITH WARREN HAYNES

- THU AUG 1 7:30PM
- FRI AUG 2 7:30PM

Collaborating with the Symphony renowned vocalist/guitarist Warren Haynes leads a retrospective of Garcia's masterworks blending musical genres of rock, blues, R&B and jazz

Media Partners



MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES AT GREEN MUSIC CENTER WITH HOST MARK HAMILL

- SUN AUG 4 4PM

The suspense the drama the horror the sorrow and the excitement—the movies you love feature memorable scores. This Summer packs a punch and spends an early evening with the San Francisco Symphony and special guest narrator Mark Hamill and relive the giant musical moments from the movies we all love

AN EVENING WITH JESSYE NORMAN

- FRI AUG 9 7:30PM

Fascinating anecdotes table evening the Inv t on Grammy award and Natio nal Medal of the Arts winner Jessye Norman take the stage for one night only performance al classics from the American songbook.

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produced one of the most interesting albums of the year. *Spring Break of the Soul* is a salute to weird America that fits in perfectly with Oakland. The ambitious seventeen-track album explores pop in its various forms. There's a spaced-out cover of Christopher Cross' "Sailing," string-laden love songs with the dark intensity of Syd Barrett, and absurd and infectious melodies that recall They Might Be Giants. Baird was a founding member of Sound Team, an Austin based indie rock band that signed to Capitol Records in 2005, but got dropped after its debut album sold poorly. Baird continued performing under the moniker Sunset and as a solo artist, self-releasing a plethora of experimental lo fi records that earned him comparisons to early Beck. His style is both disorienting and comforting. Let's hope we get to keep him.

BEST DRIVE-IN MEDIA EMENT

Jack London Waterfront Flicks

Market Lawn, Jack London Square, Oakland, 510-645-9282, JackLondonSquare.com

Sure, you may have snuggled (or done more) in the backseat of your beater as the light from the latest blockbuster illuminated your secretive tryst, but the new best way to get cuddly with your bean doesn't require four wheels and permission from the parents to stay out past curfew. On Thursday nights in the summer, Jack London Waterfront Flicks screens a constellation of recent blockbusters and old school favorites, including Pixar's *Brave* and *The Goonies*. The films roll at dusk, but the party starts well before the sun sets. Pre-screening festivities include trivia questions, with prize incentives and beer from New Belgium Brink, watch and make out with abandon — all proceeds benefit East Bay Bike Coalition. It sing-alongs are more your style, belt one out during monthly Friday screenings of musical hits such as *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Mamma Mia!* Add in a takeout meal from a local eatery to enjoy on the grass, and you're sure to nail date night, if not your date.

BEST EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC NIGHT

Improvised Music Session at Bar 355

355 19th St., Oakland, 510-451-3355

On any given weekend, the small stage at the back of Bar 355 is usually filled with people dancing, but on the first Sunday of every month it turns into a playground for avant-garde musicians. Local drummer and man about town Sara Ospovat started Improvised Music Session last year, enlisting friends and bandmates from Anteater Beep Naytronix, Kapowski and Oakland Active Orchestra, to name a few, to join him in an improvised jam session. He starts off the evening with a set of originals — usually accompanied by regulars Kasey Knudsen, Michael Coleman and Kim Cass — and then branches off into pop standards and improvised tunes, inviting anyone to play. The jam, which goes late, offers a rare opportunity to watch musicians in their natural state, trying to challenge one another and keep a sometimes-skeptical crowd engaged with the often strange music.

Elephant seals are sound sleepers, and even stop breathing from time to time.

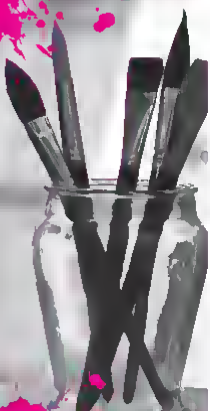
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Readers Say the Darndest Things

BEST BAND

The Universe's "only" all-female Bingo Beings cover band
(Very close runner-up: Nephilim) — *MJLawless*

Wilco
ROCK! — *Steve Hull*

B. Hamilton
B Hamilton making bro-wave-rave relevant again. You can quote me on that. — *Justin Flores*

General Hospital
Its my band, we are the best — *John Murphy*

N/A (Silambik)
that's their name. i'm not n/a ing the field as non applicable — *Marisa-Lee castillo*

BEST CLUB

League of Women Voters of Oakland
— *Jane Klein*

Mildred Club
You would never know it from outside —*ittt3707*

Ruby Room
A little mix of everything with the right touch of crazy. — *Camille Gebert*

The Oakland Metro Superhouse
Place of all things that are awesome — *MJLawless*

Berkeley Yacht Club
Great cruising, exciting races! — *Sharon Hind-Smith*

Club 21
I LOVE GUY RANCHEROS — *Angel Espinoza*

Van Kleef
(but I'm old now) — *Sara Steffens*

BEST COMEDIAN

Caitlin Gill
Funny tall Caitlin! — *Sam Kazdaghabadi*

Chris Higgins
He's disgusting and always high on stage, but I can't stop laughing anyway — *sydeleele*

george carlin
although i do appreciate john leguizamo amongst many others. — *Nelay*

BEST DJ NIGHT AT A CLUB

DJ BENO(187)
Sick Sad Oakland. This man is a genius — *Brandon Dunkle*

N/A
No such thing. All a DJ does is put records on. They do not deserve an award for this — *Gary Lee*

MOST POPULAR CAUSE

Bees

Beekeeping has long been practiced in the East Bay, for all kinds of reasons. Some want their gardens to be more productive; others like the beekeeping jumpsuit. Still others are worried about the bees' survival in the face of colony collapse disorder and the massive disappearance of bees in commercial beekeeping. For whatever reason, there's not one, but three local stores now selling beekeeping equipment and it's becoming easier and easier to find local honey with not only longtime honey sellers like Bee Happy in Oakland collecting honey from all over the East Bay, but places like Homestead Apothecary in Oakland and Colonel Onion in Berkeley selling honey collected just a few blocks away from their stores. All of this amounts to not just more food for locals, but also hopefully more protection of the bee population. So continues the happy marriage of two causes the East Bay has historically held dear — environmentalism and sustainable agriculture — supported by sugar cravings as much as anything.

BEST PLACE TO BE CREATIVE

HUB Oakland

1423 Broadway Oakland, HubOakland.net

Everyone knows that creative types tend to be tortured and isolated, penning their poems or painting their portraits with an open bottle of Jack Daniel's always within reach. Right? Well not exactly, according to the folks at HUB Oakland, the East Bay's flirt in a global chain of more than fifty co-working spaces meant to spark communities of innovative thinkers. Currently in a temporary location, HUB plans to move in October to a 16,000-square-foot spot in Uptown that will include offices, collaborative space, conference rooms, an art gallery and a meditation and yoga area. Members can join at varying levels. HUB Oakland isn't only about providing workspace; it also hosts events intended to get the inspiration flowing: The Pachamama Alliance and *YES!* magazine recently hosted American economist David Korten, who spoke on sacred activism and Ashram Ekundaya DJ Divinity Prescott Circus Theatre and Destiny Arts Center hosted the "Grow Sessions" at the Oakland Indie Awards, just to name a few. Check out the HUB — you'll want to be there when the next big idea hits.

BEST VISUAL GRAPHIC NOVEL

'Sumo' by Thien Pham

What's that you say? You don't like graphic novels? Oh, okay. That's cool. You should read *Sumo* anyway. Because thinking of the latest book by Oakland's own Thien Pham as "just" a graphic novel — or, worse yet, a comic book — is like calling *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* a superhero book, or *Oliver Twist* a crime novel. It may be technically true, but it's sort of missing the point. *Sumo* — which follows, for the most part, a washed-up football player as he journeys to Japan to become, you guessed it, a sumo wrestler — is a sincere meditation on risk and reward and sacrifice

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THE NEW AUTHENTIC

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This paid advertisement should be considered the opinion of Ed Jimson

Sleep-Deprived

"National security" secrets aren't primarily designed to keep America's "enemies" from knowing what's going on. They're to keep you from knowing what's going on.

Since whistle blowing by government employees is now outlawed, we can only hope that some will do it anonymously.

Today, there are a few people targeted by the government and it may be difficult to know why. They suffer greatly while in the midst of their fellow citizens and the causes of their pain may be invisible to others. Nightly microwave or other electromagnetic bombardments are used to deprive them of sleep. Implanted minrochips similar to those put in dogs can be used as homing devices for this purpose. When the sleep deprivation is temporarily stopped, your deep sleep reaction enables them to approach you, chemically render you unconscious, and then do physical things to your body. Sleep deprivation is a form of torture that impairs judgement and functioning.

When your away they'll enter your dwelling, tamper with food and medicines, steal small things, and do other little things to make you feel annoyed and violated. Pervasive electronic surveillance, interception of mail, email and phone calls, creating impostor facebook pages, plus destruction of documents are also part of the unseen repression. With computerized control and sensors, the harassment doesn't require a lot of human man hours.

Citizens in any country will never admit that their country has a secret police. Ours is not as pervasive as those of other countries. Right now it only hostilely surveils a few lone dissidents, critics and eccentrics. But this bodes ill for the future of America. Targeted radicals will be slow to recognize what hit them. They'll speak their minds and then begin to develop sleep problems. They may suspect but not blame the government because they can't visualize the technology used to cause the suffering. But they'll learn to avoid speaking out.

The result could be a subtle climate of fear and acceptance of injustice as America moves toward fascism. The public naively trusts the FBI and CIA to obey the law and hopes the press will expose wrongdoing. But many people in the government and press are already subconsciously afraid of being attacked themselves.

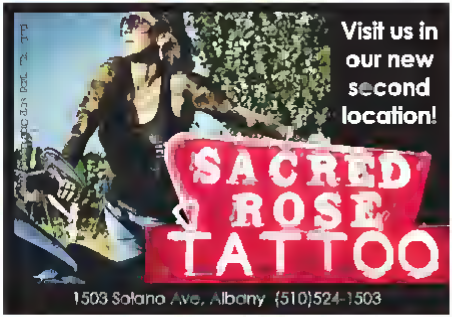
"National Security" is the excuse for the secrecy hiding criminal acts is the reason for it. Congressional oversight is a joke. Legislators on intelligence committees just wait to be led to. The secret terrorism court is really a kangaroo court. Of about 10,000 requests for surveillance, only 11 were denied.

Real terrorists are rare to nonexistent in this country, so government agents and hired mercenaries have to make themselves feel busy experimenting on someone they don't like.

Despotism can have a long incubation period, but the U.S. is infected. It starts with a small number of loners being persecuted. Later, dissidents who are America's conscience could increasingly be destroyed. Find out about the book, The Great Repression.

Edward S. Jimison
2614 Castro Valley Blvd., #4
Castro Valley, California 94546

What is the proper response to criticism? The government's response is breaking the law, causing me unending suffering, sometimes severe, and trying to prevent me from communicating with others.





Readers Say the Darndest Things

BEST LOCAL AUTHOR

Daniel Alarcon

Lost City Radio was mysterious, well written and opened a window on a ranch hidden part of South American recent history. — *Caroline Parvos*

Ryan Christopher Parks

His Facebook statuses put me through a whirlwind of emotions. — *Justin Flores*

Joe Clifford

Can I vote for myself? I think that's OK, right? — *joe clifford*

J. Douglas Allen-Taylor

Most of us know Jesse from his journalism but his novel Sugaree Rising, is absolutely incredible. You can get it at Laurel Books (also a local gem). Marcus Books, some other local bookstores, and also on Amazon and the other internet book sellers. — *Emperorlgatnoclothes*

Tomas Moniz aka Rad Dad

(particularly fathers) to share, commiserate and plan with each other and to support each other in challenging patriarchy one diaper at a time. As Chima Martens has said "Tomas has been the most vocal voice within zines, trying to start and keep a discussion within this aspect of radical politics and parenthood." His writing has been included in many zines about parenting as well as in the books My Mother Wears Combat Boots and Don't Leave Your Friends Behind — *Endless Caucus*

BEST LOCAL BOOK

Telegraph Avenue, by Jonathon Franzen

— *Jim Puskar*

BEST RADIO STATION

kpfa

I almost never listen to it, but it is the best of the east bay. — *Tom Bunye*

KALX

DJ Rubberband girl plays the soundtrack to my life whether I like it or not — *zeeg66*

BEST UBOEBGROUND WAREHOUSE

BERUM

ALSO THIS QUESTION IS STUPID — *Vanessa Monique Martinez*

SUGAR MOUNTAIN STUDIOS

smells like cat pee — *John Murphy*

what?

are there really a bunch of underground warehouses? really? where? I've never heard of any — *ryanstout*

Voices

Rocking it since Oakland didn't enforce codes — *krisnh*

Categories We Didn't Think Of

BEST PROMOTER/ MUSIC BOOKER

Sara Sarkos

your voting system needs drastic improvement — *blackfin430*

BEST PLACE TO BUY FUNCTIONAL ART

True Ceramics Gallery

— *Nate Saunders*

MUSIC STORE / MUSIC SCHOOL

Acme House of Music(on MacArthur Blvd in Oakland)

A great place to buy instruments & other things musical (new or used) or take lessons, or just to hang out & talk music. Whether you're a novice or a pro, the atmosphere is relaxed & welcoming. Plus the owners really give back to the community. — *Vance Bergman*

BEST VENUE

oakland metro

Maybe. I missed best venue category but this venue has brought in bigger and better events every month, have made great improvements inside added more bars, and has a great staff — *Sam Kandaghabadi*

BEST PET ARTIST

Amy Jo Eaje

— *Amy Jo Eaje*

BEST INDIE PORN!

TROUBLEfilms, Courtney Trouble

The ringleader of the queer porn mafia, TROUBLEfilms specializes, as well as a ton of the indie porn in the bay is being made in in oakland these days! — *Nick Yaper-Cox*

MOST OAKLANDISH

Oaklandish

— *bbiggins*

BEST MOVIE THEATER

The New Parkway

— *Patrick Krall*

BEST LOCAL VILLAIN

Lew Wolff

No one has shown more disrespect to Oakland and the East Bay than Oakland A's owner Lew Wolff who continues to attempt to move the team out of Oakland. Just go up already! Keep the A's in Oakland! — *jsh*

BEST SHOCK ARTIST

The Displayed Inners sideshow

These cats are effing mind blowing!!!! — *Kitty Baker*



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BEST SKEEZE FREE DANCE PARTY

Ships in the Night

First Saturdays of the month at The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland

It s a sad truth, but club-going is often synonymous with moderate to heavy levels of sexual predatory grossness. But you will rarely have to huddle around a friend to ward off the unwanted and repeated advances of a creepy skeezeball at Ships in the Night The famed monthly queer dance party has been happening in the Bay Area for more than seven years and now calls the spacious New Parish home You re guaranteed to hear Cumwhore s "Pony" and witness whole lot of grind ng but unlike most dance places, you re way less likely to have to fight off unwanted attention That s not to say you won't be surrounded by shitgoers ready to fr ll ways, get down but the vibe is strongly antifi on the pillars of consent and respect Plus, every event raises money for various queer-justice community groups. Now that s good fujn all around.

BEST ROCK N' ROLL FANTASY CAMP

Women's Rock Camp

BayAreaGirlsRockCamp.org

Ever dreamed of joining a rock band and playing onstage? If the answer is yes, and you are of the female persuasion then get thee to Women's Rock Camp where a weekend al activities will culminate in your performance al a major venue in front of your cheering family and friends (no experience necessary) Originally started as a fundraiser for Bay Area Girls Rock Camp the adult version (offered on a $300-$500 sliding scale) has grown into its own bona fide camp Besides being super-friendly and supportive, Rock Camp s staff and volunteers will teach you the basics of instrumentation songwriting, and getting along, plus other band related skills like screen printing and dissecting images of women in media While the whole thing may not be the most realistic — after all being in a band takes loads of time and work, and you likely won't have cheerleaders guiding you along the way — attending Women s Rock Camp may give you enough of a taste of the rock n roll dream to convince you to ditch your day job. If not there s always next year

BEST THEATRICAL PRODUCTION

Shotgun Players' 'Shipwreck'

Tom Stoppard s unmistakable brand of witty drama has been in high circulation recently between his adapted screenplay for Hallywood s *Anna Karenina* and a recent staging of *Arcadia* at A.C.T. Probably the best and certainly the most impressive Stoppard staging however was Shotgun Players production of *Shipwreck* — part two of the hulking and heady *Coast of Utopia* series. For a company this small to take on a production this big — a cast of more than thirty signed on for the run which is spaced over three years — is as much fally as it is an act of splendid devotion Yet on its own *Shipwreck* was enough to sustain a theater lover for some time. Featuring a group of pre-revolution socialist friends (Stoppard s left field erudition is a perfect match for the Berkeley and broader East Bay intellectual current) as they gallivant around yuletide 19th-century Europe spouting their theses and romancing one another *Shipwreck* is an embarrassment of theatrical riches. Shotgun Players in spite of its limitations graciously brought them to life ●



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Stephen Lorenschn

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Even if you don't know what a tincture is or what it could possibly be used for, you can count on Homestead Apothecary to teach you. Nobody knows Nic Weinstein has had a long history of spearheading programs to educate people on all the useful herbs that surround us. And since opening his cute, terrarium-filled boutique in Temescal Alley last March, Weinstein has been doing just that. He's led workshops on Western herbalism — honey-based salve-making, the many surprising uses of seaweed, and the medicinal properties of (non-magic) mushrooms. While the space is a definite go-to for the dedicated herbal community, its most special attribute is its welcoming environment to those whose curiosity might outweigh their knowledge.

BEST BAKERY

Baron Baking

BaronBaking.com

It wasn't long ago that it was laughable to suggest that you could get even a half-decent bagel anywhere on the West Coast. Fortunately, the days when Bay Area bagels were little more than round puffy bread may soon be a thing of the past, thanks to a handful of serious new artisans, many of them based in the East Bay. One of guys spearheading the bagel revolution is Baron Baking's Dan Graf, a former genetics student who reverse-engineered what he believes to be the perfect bagels: small, dense, very crispy, and deeply flavorful. We like these shiny-crusted beauties toasted and topped with cream cheese, capers, and smoked trout, as we've enjoyed them at Sing's Lunchette. (They're also available at Seal's Restaurant & Delicatessen and Chop Bar.) But these are also the rare bagels that are just as good — nay, even better — when eaten untoasted and unadorned, save perhaps with a smear of soft butter.

BEST PLACE TO BUY A CAR WITH A PERSONAL TOUCH

Enthusiast Automotive

5820 Adeline St., Emeryville, 510-653-1955

Sure, you can go to a squeaky-clean auto garage where the customer service representatives wear headsets, a shuttle picks you up and drops you off, and cars line up at 7:30 a.m. for check-ins. Or you can go to Enthusiast Automotive, right next to Lois the Pie Queen, with its junkyard-rescued Thunderbirds and Mustangs, stream of friends and regulars dropping in for chats, and, most importantly, a mechanic named Speed who's been working on cars for forty years. Although his passion is classic cars, he'll fix your Honda, too. He pretty much does it all: changes oil straightens fenders, and shoots the breeze. There's no middleman; it's just Speed — a quiet, honest man with fair prices and (ironically) a slow smile.

BEST WINE SHOP

Vintage Berkeley

2113 Vine St., Berkeley, 510-665-8600; 2948 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-2501 VintageBerkeley.com

The wine world can be notoriously difficult to navigate for those who are a) young-ish b) not rich and/or c) not sommeliers. Which is why it's great to find a wine shop that caters graciously to anyone who walks through its doors. With locations in Elmwood and North Berkeley, Vintage Berkeley is about as welcoming and down-to-earth as a wine shop can get. Both shops giddily display champagne bottles in repurposed bathtubs at the front of the stores, walls are lined with simple but elegantly stacked boxes of wine, labels explain in no-fuss terms and with a heavy sprinkling of exclamation points what foods pair best with a vintage Argentine Malbec or the latest Grenache Noir from Berkeley-based Donkey & Goat, and, most importantly, the employees are


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Los Rakas

Los Rakas is comprised of cousins Raka Rich & Raka Don pioneering Panamanians by way of the Bay Area on the frontier of a new Latin urban sound. Known for their fresh mix of hip hop, plena, reggae and dancehall music with both Spanish and English lyricism Los Rakas represent the cutting edge of Pan American flows. Taking their name from the Panamanian word "Rakataka" – a negative slur used to describe someone from the ghetto – Los Rakas have set out to both inspire fellow "Rakas" by empowering them to become successful despite their circumstances, turning the current Latin hip hop world on its head.

www.losrakas.com

Sat 8/3, 6-7:30pm E8X Plaza Stage
Presented by the East Bay Express

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Readers Poll Winners

BEST ART OR CRAFT SUPPLIES
Blick

BEST BAGELS
Beauty's Bagels

BEST BAKERY
La Farine

BEST BARBERSHOP
Temescal Alley Barbershop

BEST BIKE SHOP AND/OR BIKE REPAIR SHOP
Missing Link

BEST BOOKSTORE
Pegasus

BEST BREWERY
Linden Street Brewery

BEST BUTCHERSHOP
The Local Butchershop

BEST CANNABIS DISPENSARY
Harborside Health Center

BEST CAR REPAIR
Art's Automotive

BEST CHEESES
Cheese Board

BEST CHILDREN'S STORE
Mr. Mopp o

BEST CSA
Full Belly Farms

BEST DENTIST
Dr. Laune Shepherd

BEST DOCTOR
Dr. Elizabeth Koza

BEST EYEGLASS SHOP
EWear

BEST FARMERS' MARKET
Grand Lake

BEST FURNITURE STORE
Uhuru Furniture and Collectibles

BEST GAMES STORE
Games of Berkeley

BEST GROCERY STORE
Berkeley Bowl

BEST HAIR SALON
Keter Salon

BEST HEAD SHOP
Big Al's

BEST JEWELRY STORE
Pave

BEST LOCAL WINERY
Rosenblum Cellars

BEST MANICURES AND PEDICURES
Femmacus Nails

BEST MASSAGE
Trica Parrish at Elixir Salon

BEST MEN'S CLOTHING
Standard and Strange

BEST NEW BUSINESS
Park Burger

BEST PET STORE
Pet Food Express

BEST PLANT NURSERY
Berkeley Horticultural Nursery

BEST RECORD STORE
Amoeba

BEST SHOE STORE
Shoes on Solano

BEST SPA
Claremont Hotel and Spa

BEST TATTOO SHOP
Premium Tattoo

BEST USED OR VINTAGE CLOTHING
Pretty Penny

BEST VETERINARIAN
Montclair Vet

BEST WINE SHOP
The Wine Mine

BEST WOMEN'S CLOTHING
Pretty Penny

friendly, knowledgeable and unpretentious. You're likely to hear Joy Division, the Dirty Projectors, or the Alabama Shakes playing over the speakers, and you'll probably be offered samples of wine. With its heavy emphasis on affordably priced bottles, all carefully selected by co-owner Peter Eastlake, Vintage Berkeley is the go-to wine shop for those who like to drink well, but may need a little help to do so.

BEST FAMILIAR OLD HAUNTS

Donut Savant

1934 Broadway, Oakland, 510-872-6263, DonutSavant.com

First the cupcakes went gourmet. Then, bagels started getting the Slow Food–approved, artisanal treatment. It was only a matter of time before high-end doughnuts hit the East Bay — vegan doughnuts, doughnuts with bacon, doughnuts filled with fancy cream. No snark. It's a trend we can get behind. For our money, the best of the bunch are the mini-doughnuts at Uptown Oakland's Donut Savant, where owner Laurel Davis has brought new shine to the well-worn idea of a doughnut hole. Davis makes small batches throughout the day — endless variations on the doughnut "O-hole" theme, ranging from doughnuts with a salted-caramel glaze to mini apple fritters to her legendary "chocolate bomb" which has a burst of boozy, bittersweet chocolate hidden inside. The doughnuts' small size contributes more than just cuteness: it means you can sample several varieties without feeling like a glutton. Best of all, most of the doughnuts cost a dollar or less each.

MOST COVETABLE ITEMS

Crown Nine

481a 9th St., Oakland, 510-507-0788, CrownNine.com

One of Popuphood's success stories, Oakland's Crown Nine has flourished into a well-loved jewelry boutique and art gallery

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46 restaurant
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32 boutiques
36 beauty salons
21 home decor & furniture
5 sweets parlors
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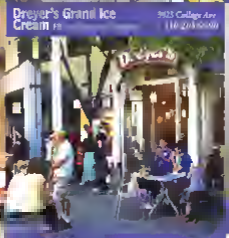
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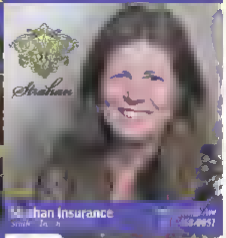


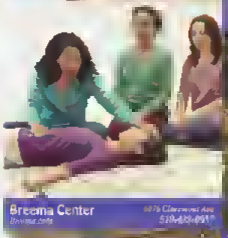








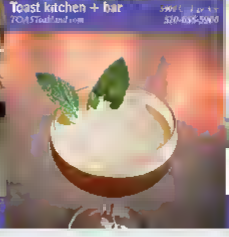


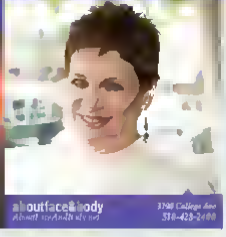






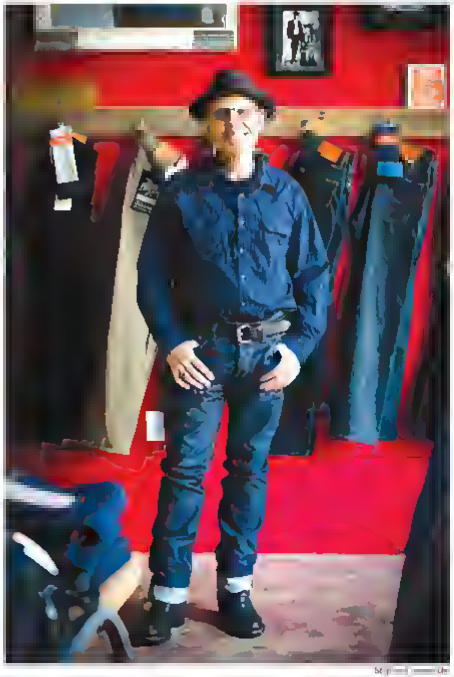












Most authentic-craftsmanship-focused men's boutique Two Jacks Denim, owned by Tommy Marzewski

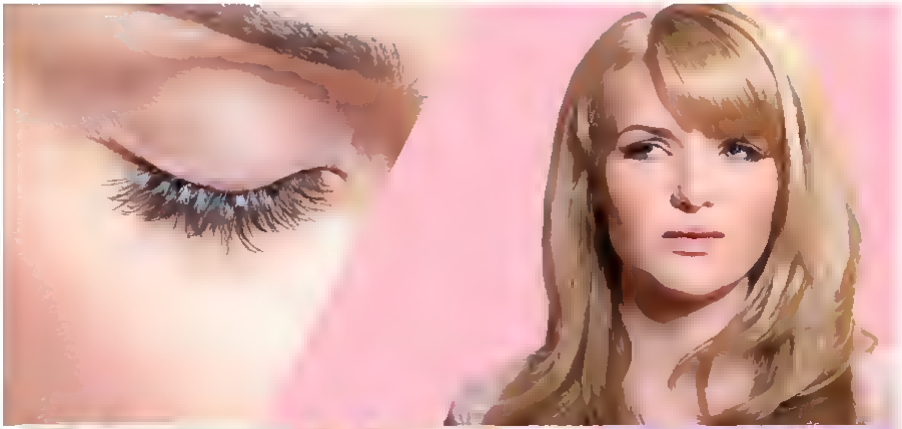
frequently mobbed by First Friday revelers and jewelry addicts alike. Owner Kate Ellen has taken this buzz and launched a new store series aptly named A Rarity. Every month, Ellen curates a selection of super-limited edition jewelry — only ten to twenty of each are made — from local artisans, and every piece is available for less than $150. Since the event's inception, works have included a loopy necklace influenced by Oakland's art deco architecture, Egyptian inspired bone earrings, a brass fringe bracelet and Ellen's own Miteuro bangle, produced using a rare Japanese wax technique. Ellen also delves into the background of each piece on her website. Interviewing the designers and bringing photographer Eve Kelenko along to snap behind-the-scenes shots of each studio. This holistic approach to jewelry design and story makes each piece feel like a true treasure, and the entire approach, we admit, feels like a rarity.

MOST AUTHENTIC-CRAFTSMANSHIP FOCUSED MEN'S BOUTIQUE

Two Jacks Denim

2315 Broadway, Oakland, 510-788-5832, TwoJacksDenim.com

When did we all get so obsessed with jeans? The fanaticism reached new heights with the opening of Two Jacks Denim, which places a premium on handcrafted, American-made selvage denim. The new Uptown store, named after verified badasses Jack Kerouac and Jack London, sources its clothing from companies such as Bay Area–based Tellason and Taylor Stitch and also carries Prison Blues jeans, made by inmates at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton. Owner Tommy Marzewski carefully selects made-in-the-US brands scouring the country for the top raw selvage and artfully crafted jeans. He also stocks jewelry from Oakland's Kate Ellen









Ketér Salon

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Berkeley
Opening Sep 2013

info@KeterSalon.com 510 849.0306
KeterSalon.com

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A winner will be picked early September. The pair of Berkeley Rep tickets is good for a single performance during the 2013–2014 season.

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Readers Say the Darndest Things.

BEST BAGELS

Authentic Bagels
Because they're real chewy! Not WonderBread with a hole. — *Gene Gumusky*

Gourdy's Bagels
Because they're real chewy! Not WonderBread with a hole. — *Laura Neil*

There are no really good Bagels in the Bay Area.
What can I say? I've been here 20 years but part of me is still a New Yorker — *Jennifer*

BEST BAKERY

Arizmendi
Have you ever had a fresh baked English muffin? I rest my case — *Hi George*

Cheeseboard
IT'S VEGAN CINNAMON ROLLS!!! — *Suki can*

Cruz Cakes
Great cakes and I don't even particularly like cake. — *Suzanne Dreshaw*

Montclair Bakery
Cheryl Lew is a sugar flower master. It's like iron chef bakery over there! There isn't a cake she couldn't bake on and kick its ass! — *Kelly Sperlock*

Rainbow Bakery
These cheese danishes!!! Like god in my mouth — *Hanne Vogel*

Starter Bakery
One word (or is it two??): KOUIGN AMANN — *homeup*

Sweet Adeline's South Berkeley
ohhhh the flakiness! — *M.Clarke*

BEST BARBERSHOP

Temescal Alley Barber Shop
Hopefully, win they win they will realize it's time to start taking appointments. — *Maria Mckee*

Metals, handmade leather belts from Hellbrant Leatherworks, and a small selection of ladies' styles from Raikou Fine Goods. The store even partners with a local tailor to offer denim hemming and repair. Kerouac and London may have been able to get away with ratty jeans with a few holes but you probably shouldn't.

KIDS' AUTHENTIC KIDS' TOY STORE

The Ark

1812 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-849-1930, TheArkToys.com

Unplug the Xbox, toss aside the iPad and get back to what being a kid was all about — the toys. Berkeley's The Ark specializes in the handmade, non plastic, no-plug needed kind of fun. Kid favorites include Oschersun's hand-carved wooden animals, plush hand puppets from Emeryville-based Folkmanis, 3D wooden Tyrannosaurus rex puzzles, and the brain-stimulating Automoblox and Nanoblox kits. Even adults will love the high-quality production and long lasting finish of their tots' new top distinctions. With a play area for kids to test-drive a few of their favorites, friendly staff and distractions like an Elizabeth Taylor doll that even adults will covet, The Ark will have your clan forgetting their pixelated screens — at least until you get home.

BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Pretty Penny

5488 College Ave., Oakland, 510-394-9219, PrettyPennyClothing.com

If the point of businesses using social media is to get you to buy things, then Pretty Penny wins the coolest hands-down. Scrolling through the vintage store's perfectly peppy Instagram feed — which is maintained by owner Sarah Dunbar — you'll find pictures of its cute shoppers and equally adorable customers in various retro fashions as well as an intense littering of likes, size questions and even real-life sales in what might be the best Boy's best use of the photo-sharing app. Become friends with Pretty Penny on Facebook and you'll find daily photos of new inventory, props to other local businesses and genuinely loving shout-outs to the store's customer base. Dunbar also tweets pins on topics like "Great Hair" and "1940s style" and Tumblr addictively scrollable, photos of more stuff to drool over. To some, this level of sharing may seem like overkill but to anyone with a little more foresight Dunbar is clearly an expert businesswoman — bringing her cult of vintage to (many) screens near you.

BEST ALTERNATIVE WEDDING JEWELRY

Esqueleto

482-A 49th St., Oakland, 510-629-6218, ShopEsqueleto.com

Say what you will about Pinterest, but it's seriously made weddings more interesting. In fact, these days, it's like if you don't have a hand-sewn dress, a wedding march composed just for you and performed by a string band made up of only all your closest friends and/or centerpieces made out of, like, live baby rabbits and flowers picked from your own backyard, your nuptials (and possibly your life??) are hopelessly mainstream. And yet somehow the vast majority of us are still holding on to the idea that wedding rings need to be simple and standard. Sure, you can probably buy a plain gold band at Temescal Alley's Esqueleto but why would you when you could get one that's delicately engraved into a braid pattern by the cult favorite New York based jewelry designer Autumn Rawdata or an impossibly sophisticated-looking, 14 karat rose-gold and black-diamond hand handmade by shop owner Lauren Wolf or a yellow-gold Katrina LaFenne ring, exquisitely shaped like a lithe, deadly looking snake? What's more, the tiny shop's selection is well curated and ever changing; its service is helpful and never pushy, and prices are far more reasonable than what you'll find at a chain jewelry store.

BEST WINERY

Dashe Cellars

99 4th St., Oakland, 510-452 1800, DasheCellars.com

Dashe Cellars wines might be the best











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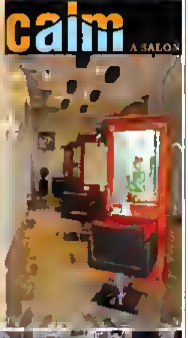
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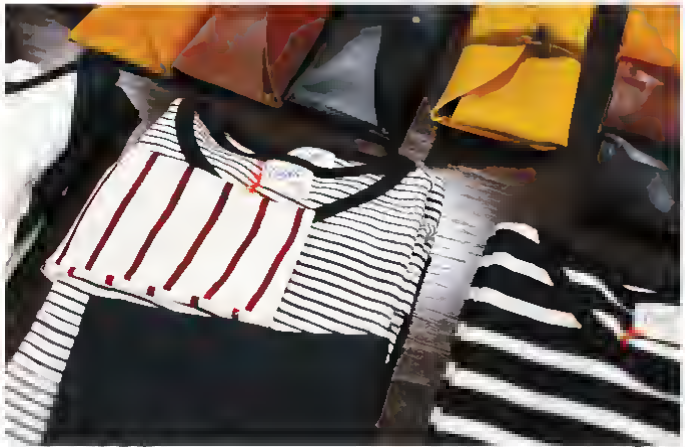












Best new bikini shop: Surf Club

Best Swimsu

kept "local" secret. Regularly recognized by national wine critics like *New York Times* writer Eric Asimov for their deliciousness and affordability (most bottles are under or near $30). Michael and Anne Dashe's hands-off winemaking philosophy embodies the honest DIY underground ethos of the East Bay. Native fermentations are encouraged and few chemical additions are made other than a minimal use of sulfur. The result? Elegant, high-acid balanced wines that defy conventional notions about California zinfandel. Visit the the Jack London district warehouse where the wines are made and quickly have your boogie ideas about winemaking dispelled, this is winemaking at its most pure. And Dashe Cellars, unlike other local wineries, is actually a pretty sizable winery — which means that beyond stocking up in the tasting room, you'll be able to find its wines at Berkeley Bowl and restaurants and wine shops across the country. Who knew the best wine was made in Oakland?

BEST NEW BOUTIQUE

Oakland Surf Club

337 14th St., Oakland, OaklandSurfClub.com

Of all the new boutiques to open in Oakland as of late, we're particularly excited about Oakland Surf Club. A small shop located in the seafoam-green art deco building on 14th and Webster streets, it carries a thoughtfully curated selection of men's and women's clothing and accessories with an unpretentious, surfer/skateboarder street-meets-beach vibe that feels incredibly Oakland right now. Husband-and-wife owners Max Klineman and Ariana Serrano-Embree are also trying to appeal to the arts and music community with an upstairs gallery that features regular exhibits and sensational live acts. One gets the sense that this young couple isn't about just making a buck on Oakland's resurgence; rather the two are trying to invest in their community. Now that's something worth supporting.

BEST PHOTO BOOTH

The Vintage Booth at 1-2-3-4 Go! Records

#20 40th St. Ste. #5, Oakland, 510-788-0325, 1234GoRecords.com

If you've been looking for a non-digital, old-school photo booth in the East Bay, chances are you've had a tough time. That's because the area's few remaining vintage booths disappeared in recent years. But there's good news for those who crave to have their mugs captured by this now-antiquated form of photography: Local photo booth aficionado Lisa Masseni bought and refurbished an old booth early last year and it's now set up in the back of Oakland's 1-2-3-4 Go! Records for public use during store hours. For $3 and the good old-fashioned patience required for a picture to develop, patrons can take home the original four-paneled, black-and white selfies once ubiquitous in movie theaters and amusement parks. Snap a photo with your baby, your beau or your Boston terrier — but be sure to hold onto the memento, because there's no telling when the East Bay's last fully functional photo booth will go the way of the dinosaurs.

ES HOUSE PRE ROLL

Cannabis Buyers Club of Berkeley (CBCB)

3033 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-849-4201 CBCBBerkeley.com

Most dispensaries offer pre-rolled joints for sale and often offer them as gifts (for first-time patients or if you make a particularly large purchase, for example). And unfortunately the majority are shitty — cigarette- rather than cone-shaped, weak, and unfinished, so that you're forced to pick pieces of weed off your tongue after every hit. Not so at CBCB. Its house roll a steal at a mere $5 (when most pre-rolls cost double), is the best deal around made of OG Bubba, comical, super potent and lovingly rolled. If you spend more than $50 which is easy to do because CBCB's high-quality bud isn't cheap, a house roll is thrown in on top to sweeten the deal. The brightly colored climb actually practices compassionate care. It exudes personality and warmth and the people who work there genuinely seem to want to be helpful. So what if you haven't learned to roll your own? You've got 52 fat days.

BEST PLACE TO BE BOUGIE ON A BUDGET

Grocery Outlet

2900 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-5648 2001 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-868-0570, GroceryOutlets.com

You never know what you're going to find at Grocery Outlet but there are hidden gems including items you'd pay twice the price for at Whole Foods: organic herbs

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Readers Say the Darndest Things.

BEST BOOKSTORE

Feminemist Adult Gallery

Books are curated with only 1 thing in mind...Sex — *Nenne Feelmare Jonner*

Pegasus Books on Shattuck

Not only do they have amazing finds at good prices, but they have cats. Cats should be an essential part to every book store. — *zoozy06*

BEST CAR REPAIR

Autotronix

Even though you shouldn't have a body shop (stop bumping into things), this place makes everything better. And they give lady customers a long-stem rose to make you feel special. Done. — *sofelenie*

Car owners

They have saved my ass many times in the last month. I appreciate this. I also paid them a lot to do it — *Vicki Dee*

BEST CHEESE

goudo

BECAUSE ITS GOUDA!!! — *pond klenk*

BEST CSA

n/a

what does CSA mean — *Nenne Feelmare Jonner*

BEST GROCERY STORE

farmer joe's on fruitvale

awesome produce at great prices fantastic specialty items, and really cute employees... — *Tessa Faulkner*

Farmer Joes

His is a farmer and his name is Joe! — *Vicki Dee*

Piedmont Grocery

The butchers are fun & flirty but not in a sleezy way. — *Lara Petrun*

whole foods

sorry. It's how I feel — *Lesley Webb*

BEST USED HR VINTAGE CLOTHING

DOWN AT LULU'S

You need the flannel, they have the flannel — *John Murphy*

EO beauty products. Amy's frozen meals and pizzeria from Italy. Headquartered in Berkeley. Grocery Outlet has hundreds of independently operated stores across the country that absorb surplus inventory from brand name manufacturers. Each store carries different products and the offerings change daily, but luckily the selection goes beyond Oscar Mayer lunchmeat and white bread in Oakland and Berkeley. The produce section is always overflowing with good buys, including organic fruits and vegetables pre-washed bagged lettuce, and locally sourced herbs. The frozen food aisle is also a cheap way to stock a freezer with pizza, desserts and gluten-free bread. There's also a decent selection of wine and beer. Best of all, Grocery Outlet's health and beauty section has a huge variety of toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, hair dye, and even handmade olive oil soaps. Everything is priced to sell fast, so check expiration dates before you buy and be decisive — items have been known to sell out in a day.

BEST MACRO A.T.

Highwire Coffee Roasters

5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-6450, HighwireCoffee.com

Highwire makes the best macchiatos. (Contrary to what Starbucks tells you, it's actually a shot of espresso with a small amount of milk and a dollop of foam.) At Highwire, the ratio of milk to cream is perfect, and there's just enough milk to balance the acidity of the espresso. If you order it for here, it'll come in an avocado-green cup with an accent of artful foam. One sip and you'll realize how much care Highwire's baristas put into this tiny cup. The amount of time it takes you to drink it is just enough to stroll the busy Market Hall and its carnival of strollers, shoppers, and fancy cocktoods. It's an Oakland experience you shouldn't miss.

BEST FACIAL

Berkeley Facial Studio

748 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-8933

It's easy to empty your wallet in the name of beauty, and a facial is no exception. There are all these expensive botanical rich syrups, lotions, masks, and tonics that promise to rejuvenate your skin. Then there are the ferns and white couches and rock fountains needed to create a relaxing spa experience. But at Berkeley Facial Studio, the focus is strictly on skin. Owned and operated by Roberta Masterson Warthur, Berkeley Facial Studio is located in a small studio on Sixth Street, and has a cozy, unpretentious vibe that's incredibly refreshing. If you want someone to coo over you and gently spritz you with mist for $100 an hour, go someplace else. At Berkeley Facial Studio, a full facial costs only $47. It is not a relaxing spa experience, but Masterson Warthur is an expert extractor and after she has a go at your pores, your skin will be glowing.

BEST LOCAL ABORTION PROVIDER

Family Planning Specialists

280 Webster St., Oakland, 510-268-3720 FamilyPlanningSpecialists.com

With the closing of the nonprofit Women's Choice Center in 2009, the loss of Planned Parenthood Golden Gate's affiliation in 2011, and the closure of the last of Choice Medical Group's Bay Area clinics recently, the need for abortion services in the East Bay remains critical. Located in the Jack London district, the independently operated Family Planning Specialists is one of only three places in the East Bay that offers surgical abortions (most only offer the abortion pill) and the *only* local clinic that gives patients the option of general anesthesia. The staff focuses on compassionate and nonjudgmental care — and that care extends beyond the perimeter


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Most inventive local beer: Buzzerkeley — Stephen Lowenstein



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MOST UNUSUAL ICE CREAMS

Abel 1950

Abel1950.com

Abel 1950's unique Mexican gourmet ice cream puts a twist on traditional desserts. Sold in retail locations all over the Bay Area, including Whole Foods, it features flavors like agave cream (tequila flavored ice cream made with the real deal) and Mexican hot chocolate and will soon release a honey mango agave flavor — a creamy sorbet made with sea salt, mango, and a zing of Los Osuna Blanco tequila. And that's not all. Abel 1950 is also planning a Thanksgiving series, including flavors like candied yam, caramelized corn, and mamey swirl — an infusion of the mamey sapote fruit of southern Mexico (which combines the flavors of pumpkin, sweet potato and maraschino cherries) with cocoa and almond. Somebody pass a spoon.

BEST PLACE FOR YOUR VAPING NEEDS

Vapor Den

2556 Telegraph Ave., Ste. 007, Berkeley, 510-842-7882, VaporDen.com

Smoking cigarettes may be passé, but nicotine is still addictive, hence the popularity of electronic cigarettes. E-cigarettes contain a liquid solution of nicotine that is vaporized and then inhaled — a process referred to as "vaping." They're powered by a small rechargable battery and emit a puff of smoke that has no scent. Proponents claim users avoid inhaling tar and other harmful chemicals found in cigarettes, but health benefits of e-cigs have not been proven. Still, they're fast becoming a smoking-cessation tool. When Vapor Den opened its Berkeley store in 2011, it was among the first brick-and-mortar stores in the country to sell e-cigarettes and accessories, according to owner Jacque Lacey. It has since expanded, opening stores in San Francisco and online. Similar to a cannabis dispensary, Vapor Den offers a large menu of e-cigs with flavors such as mint cherry and tobacco, as well as differing levels of nicotine strength. The store also offers guidance on how e-cigs work, how to charge them, and other tips for first-timers.

MOST INVENTIVE LOCAL BEER

Buzzerkeley

Cellcraft.com

The best thing about the East Bay's much-ballyhooed Beer Renaissance? There are now so many great new local beers to choose from. The worst thing? After awhile, they tend to blend together. Nut Buzzerkeley, which is fermented with champagne yeast, thereby imbuing it with a tart, mouthwatering, sturdily carbonated, unfathomably crisp mouthfeel that has all the lightness of a dry white wine, but all the grassy, hoppy flavor

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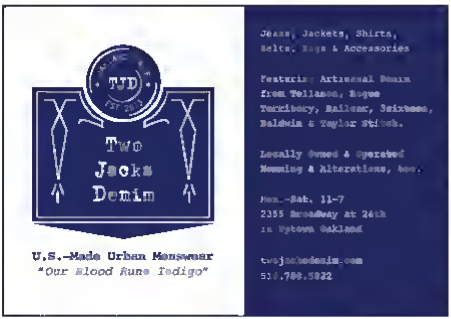
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of a beer. Made by the Walnut Creek–based Calicraft Brewing Company and available on tap at restaurants and bars including Bell Osteria and 1400 Bar and Grill as well as in champagne style 750 mL bottles at better bottle shops and liquor stores, this is a beer that will appeal equally to people who don't like beer and to die-hard hop heads who are looking for something new and unique — and, like the city it's named for, there's nothing else like it.

BEST GIFT

Umami Mart

815 Broadway, Oakland, 510-575-8152, UmamiMart.com

Umami Mart updates old notions of Japan with its young personal and shoppers take on the culture. It's hard to pin down all its international influences. The space is Danish-designed, its blog is as likely to discuss Korean noodles in Brazil as they are powdered dashi and stoneware in Yoko Kumano and kayoko Akabori have lived everywhere from Tokyo to Brazil. Accordingly, you won't find too many cherry-blossom printed nilks here. You will find Yama barware Kusami ceramm mugs and an extensive stock of Beehouse kitchenware. Kewpie mayonnaise and Japanese magazines are in the upstairs *kombini*, or convenience store. It's a unique place to find elegant, hard-to-find things for moms and dads, significant others, and yourself.

BEST NEW BAKERY

Sweet Bar

2355 Broadway, Oakland, 510-788-4957, SweetBarBakery.com

Bakeries are, as a general rule, happy places, and this Uptown Oakland spot has been one of the happiest in the East Bay since it opened this winter. Sweet Bar's charms are many: a bright, expansive space that's shaped coincidentally like a giant slice of pie; songs like "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "Thriller" (a nod to owner Mani Niall's claim to fame as Michael Jackson's former personal chef) blasting from the speakers, and a diverse crowd (no more than 10-percent hipster). The assorted cakes and pastries are predictably great — especially the polenta upside-down cakes (topped with seasonal fruit) and the vegan friendly "fauxnuts." Meanwhile, diners looking for a more substantive meal will appreciate the selection of killer soups and sandwiches (the porchetta-like slow roasted pork is especially satisfying). And while bakeries tend to be a danger zone for diabetics and the gluten intolerant, Sweet Bar has a number of treats in its regular rotation that are gluten free or made with sugar alternatives.

BEST SPECIALTY FOOD SHOP

Oaktown Spice Shop

520 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-281-5400, OaktownSpiceShop.com

You know you live in a place where people love food when the niche operations are able to thrive — the hot sauce shops and olive oil purveyors and the farm stand that sells nothing except different varieties of lettuce. In Oakland, one specialty shop in particular stands out for having filled a real void in the Bay Area's hyper-ingredient-focused food economy. At Oaktown Spice Shop, customers have access to an stunning selection of spices — multiple black peppercorn varietals, dried and ground chilies that hit every point on the Scoville heat scale, and custom spice blends that range from the crowd-pleasing to the obscure. Even more than the variety, it's the freshness of the spices and the convenience of being able to buy them in small or large quantities, that makes the store an indispensable resource to home cooks, as well as a growing number of local restaurant chefs.

BEST PLACE TO TURN AN AVOCADO INTO DOOMSDAY ER

Temescal Alley Barber Shop

4708 40th St., Oakland, 510-761-5074, TemescalAlleyBarberShop.Tumblr.com

Wander into Temescal Alley and you'll find a lot of men just hanging around, brushing the hair out of their eyes while they kill some time on their smartphones. They're all waiting for a haircut — sometimes for as long as an hour — but they'll tell you that Temescal Alley Barber Shop is worth it. The walk-in-only shop has earned a devoted following thanks to its premium of good music, whiskey and discussions about sportscycles. It appeals not only to tattooed hipsters but dudes of all stripes, who rave about their $25 haircuts, which are executed with care — taking into account cowlicks, waves, and other hair patterns — and finished with a straight razor to the neck. The result is a clean slick, and neat haircut that can transform that schleppy guy on his phone into a real head turner.

BEST NEWS

Radiologie

510-403-1001, Radiologie.co

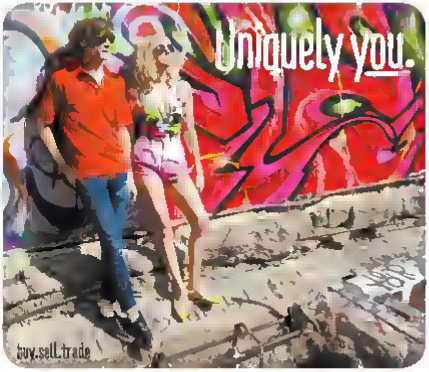
They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and that's what Kerwin Kuniyoshi and Jerry Yoon are counting on. Both veterans of the visual arts world, Kuniyoshi and Yoon launched their new creative production agency, Radiologie, in the wake of a 48-hour film competition that proved that they were compatible work partners. Clients have included a range of cool folks and their business ventures including chef Rebecca Katz, whose book *Longevity Kitchen* came out in February. Imprint Energy, a tech firm out of UC Berkeley, that's revolutionizing the humble battery, and the 2012 Avedn Trashion Show at Ruby Skye in San Francisco (the models' clothes were made of anything that could be recycled, like soda bottle labels, CDs, aluminum pull tabs, and newspaper). Yoon shoots Kuniyoshi edits, and together they create film that tells their clients' stories with verve and vigor. Will Radiologie prove to be the dominating Fo Kuniyoshi and Yoon the future looks bright.

BEST TAKE OUT

Three Stone Hearth

1581 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-1334, ThreeStoneHearth.com

Breaking news: A mid-week take-out meal doesn't have to be slapdash. Cooperative



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kitchen Three Stone Hearth in Berkeley proves it with fiber nutritious, traditionally cooked dishes made from ingredients like bone broths pastured meats organic vegetables and whole grains Think Indian fritters with ginger cucumber and fennel chicken-and-rice congee cultured peach chutney pesto with chard spinach and pepitas and apricot blueberry crumble. There are always vegetarian and gluten-free options and as well as home-cooked offerings Three Stone Hearth sells food produced by local small-scale or artisan businesses such as Grindstone Bakery bread Point Reyes blue cheese and Green Pasture cod liver and butter oil Not only is the food soul-satisfying the business model is pretty cool too — five workel/owners started the enterprise in 2008 New members go up on the website every Monday you can pick up your order Wednesdays and Thursdays at the kitchen or make delivery arrangements With Three Stone Hearth in the 'hood, who needs to cook?

FAMILY-LED FREE PARK

Monkey Forest Road

2285 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-227 2400, MonkeyForestRoad.com

It s unusual enough that the home furnishing store Monkey Forest Road has a cafe inside of it but wonder still that said cafe is home to the most delicious gluten-free baked goods in town Baked fresh daily (and all day) on-site its gluten devoid items go beyond the typical chocolate-chip cookie and blueberry muffin Past offerings have included lemon poppy-seed muffins chicken-apple-sausage scones chocolate-cherry muffins, and breakfast sandwiches The dough is light but not crumbly and doesn't leave any of that weird aftertaste that can be common with many gluten free mixes. And the flavors themselves are delicate and not overly sweet — another common affliction of gluten free products. While they don t come cheap, these gluten-free goodies are so expertly constructed that you won't feel as if you're missing anything. Whoever called it "dining without" clearly hadn't been to Monkey Forest Road

BEST PLACE TO GET [illegible]

The Sewing Room & Style Lounge

2434 Webb Ave., Alameda, 510-382-9887

You've heard of slow food but what about slow fashion? Housed in a tiny shop in Alameda The Sewing Room & Style Lounge sells lovingly (and yes slowly) handcrafted pieces by designer Desiree Salas. Retro charm oozes from every polka-dotted dress and floral print blouse but these designs are accessible enough to appeal to those outside of the rockabilly hine-wurp scene. And Salas isn't content to just produce and sell spreading the gospel of producing women's clothing with an old fashioned approach is woven into the Sewing Room & Style Lounge s organizational plan The tiny floor space is equal parts showroom and classroom with vintage sewing machines at the ready for the classes taught in the evenings We recommend dropping in on a course or two because really what better

Categories We Didn't Think Of

BEST HANDMADE LEATHER BELTS
Handmade n Leather
Chris is a master in old-style leather accessories. — *Ed Livingston*

BEST EYELASH EXTENSIONS
Cosmo Spa Lounge
there is no one out there with the knowledge and skill level than Cosmo Spa Lounge They have a master trainer who teaches all throughout United States and she can do the best eyelash extensions! — *Soo-Jin Yang*

BEST AQUARIUM STORE
Albany Aquarium
— *dugordon*

BEST RECYCLED JEWELRY
Yes & Yes Designs
Yes & Yes Designs is beautiful one-of-a-kind jewelry made from recycled books! — *Laura Bruland*

BEST PLACE TO ACHIEVE NIRVANA
Oakland Floats
— *Dave Holsinger*

BEST LOCAL FLORIST
Gorgeous and Grape
— *Tamra Grande*

BEST PLACE TO BOARD YOUR DOG
Ellisse Canine
— *Matt Peake*

BEST MAGAZINE SHOP!
Amoeba
— *Kirsten Bjorgan*

BEST COURIER SERVICE
Modern Express in Oakland
Prompt and dependable service... ALWAYS! — *adrienne vz*

BEST METAPHYSICAL STORE
Sacred Well
— *Anders Renee*

BEST BEER OF THE YEAR
Lion 51's Red Death
— *ptlovern*

BEST ACUPUNCTURE CLINIC
Oakland Acupuncture Project
Everyone marvelously friendly and they have regular monthly specials (such as unemployment special or artists special) to make it even more affordable. Love this place! — *Melissa Barrow*



Basic nail polish company Floss Gloss. Anwin Seehusen

way to guarantee your threads weren't made in a sweatshop than by making them yourself?

EAST BAY BEST LIFE HACK

Vignette Wine Country Soda

WineCountrySoda.com

If you love hosting Sunday brunch but hate the shall we say *side effects* of a mimosa, Vignette Country Wine Sodas are the ultimate solution. Made by a Berkeley-based company the non alcoholic wine coolers are cool and refreshing, sweetened only with California wine grapes, and come in flavors such as pinot noir chardonnay rosé and California brut. The classy twelve-ounce bottle is ideal for one and a larger bottle is perfect for a shy — but no less sophisticated — gathering. The sparkling sodas can be purchased in stores all over the East Bay including at Farmstead Cheeses & Wines in Alameda and Oakland, El Cerrito Natural Grocery, and The Pasta Shop at Market Hall, among many others. Although we can't call them wine without the alcohol Vignette Country Wine Sodas are the next best thing to the real deal if a wine bottle is the story then a wine cooler is surely the vignette.

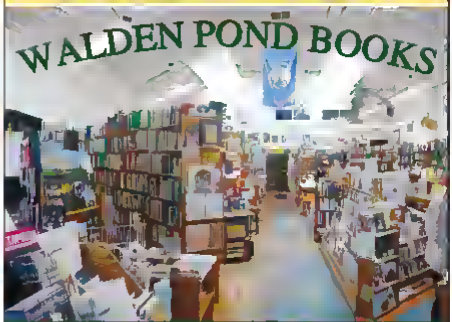
BEST NAIL POLISH COMPANY

Floss Gloss

FlossGloss.com

When California College of the Arts graduates Janine Lee and Aretha Sack saw a colorless void in the corporate nail polish market they took matters into their own hands by starting Floss Gloss, an East Bay manufactured line of opaque nail polishes, inspired by everything from party induced bruises to peach-colored bikinis and gas station mains cheese. Packaged in dainty bottles and topped with girlish golden handles, each $8 lacquer affords purchasers a funky, formaldehyde-free way to dress up their digits. And perhaps just as exciting as the local business products is its colorful creators, who have been setting up shop at local dive bars to paint nails during DJ sets

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3rd Sunday Health & Wellness: Cookin' the Market is back serving up healthy recipes. Other physical activities, like Capoeira, will be happening as well!
4th Sunday DIY: Join us as we teach you the ins & outs of DIY! Demo topics include cheese-making, fermenting, canning, and lots more!
5th Sunday Local Love Day: On these special Sundays, we celebrate what makes Oakland great!

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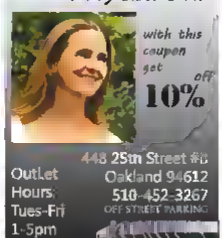
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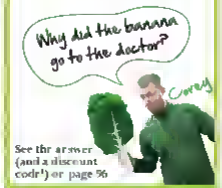
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See the answer (and a discount code!) on page 96

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GoldenGateOrganics.com

The duo recently brought their polish party to Oakland's Layover, where they beautified patrons' nails for $10 a pop or for free with a polish purchase. There's talk of making the marble manicures a monthly affair, which would certainly make the event the most inventive manicure to the East Bay.

BEST BAGUETTE

Acme Bread

1601 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1327
AcmeBread.com

Acme is definitely bare-and "bread" in Berkeley (sorry). Its baguettes are among the best in the East Bay. The sweet-dough baguette, one of the bakery's four original breads, is a bit milder than its sourdough cousin, but gets delicious, with a touch of Spanish and Tasmanian olive oil or artisanal cheese. The organic wheat and barley baguette is leavened with very little yeast and the prior day's dough as a pre-ferment starter. Soft and wholesome with a satisfying crunch, Acme's baguettes are more than just a foundation; they complement whatever they're paired with, which is why you'll find them at restaurants and grocery stores all over the Bay Area. So throw some butter, jam or cheese on one, grab a bottle of wine, and have yourself a Parisian picnic — all without leaving the East Bay.

BEST EMBRACE OF FURRY CREATURES

Castle in the Air

1805 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-204-8661
CastleInTheAir.biz

Mice aren't typically a selling point for a store, but Castle in the Air isn't a typical craft store. The Fourth Street staple stocks reams of embossed paper, rubber stamps, and ribbons that would make Rapunzel jealous. Nooks and crannies are filled to the brim with items such as bird stickers, gold leaf, and all the tools casual doodlers need to elevate their calligraphy game from a chicken scratch to scroll worthy. And it doesn't get less eclectic upstairs, where craft masters school locals on topics ranging from Edwardian steampunk brooches to *papier-mâché* decorative Polish hanging framework). As for those mice? Castle in the Air has made a name for itself with its intricate holiday windows, including last year's four-month involved a multistory display of 32 mice made out of fur coat scraps, arranged around a palace. We think we could live with the rodents...as long as they're there as artfully and authentically as at Castle in the Air.

BEST NEW DESSERT

Bundtini at Nothing Bundt Cakes

5745 Christie Ave., Emeryville, 510-923-2253, NothingBundtCakes.com

No, it's not a cake-flavored martini (although can someone look into that?) but it's just as indulgent. The newest location of Nothing Bundt Cakes bakery has given us a better reason than IKEA to visit Emeryville: the Bundtini — a bite-size bundt cake with a delicate swirl of creamy frosting on top — is a perfect amount to satisfy your sweet tooth without upgrading your pants size. But if you really deserve a treat, try the slightly larger Bundtlet, which also features Nothing Bundt Cake's signature thick petal frosting. The Bundtinis are available in nine decadent flavors — including red velvet chocolate-chocolate chip, white chocolate raspberry, pecan praline and more — and are sold by the dozen. Need we say more?

BEST ARTISANAL COFFEE

Roast Co.

1552 Beach St., Unit T, Oakland, 510-658-2789, RoastCo.com

Based in Oakland, Roast Co. is known for its rich, single-origin coffee beans culled from farms worldwide. The secret behind its roasters' authentic taste is the company's commitment to slow roasting fresh beans. Roast Co. also concocts its own blends, such as the West Oakland blend, which features beans from Central America, Africa and the Pacific Islands. Founder and "master roaster" Alex Roberts exhibits his vision of making coffee an experience for the drinker through deliberate preparation, from bean to brew. Although the shop is closed on weekends, your car find Roast Co. coffee at cafes and restaurants all over the East Bay, including Arthur's Bagel Company, Cosecha, Chop Bar, Brown Sugar Kitchen, and more.

BEST PLACE FOR A LAST-MINUTE PARTY DRESS

Bella Vita

5407 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-1635

From the outside, Bella Vita looks like an upscale kids' clothing and vintage boutique. And that's partially true, but what may not be apparent if you've never stepped inside this teensy Rockridge shop is that it also has a surprisingly excellent selection of adorable — and relatively inexpensive — dresses for grown-ups. Free to make moms and rockstar moms feel all swingy and retro. We love the cotton floral summer dresses by Emily and Fin and the mod-ish frocks from LA-based Dear Creatures, whose aesthetics will appeal to those who want to look retro but not precious, youthful but not juvenile. While the kids' clothes may stretch your bank account, the adult dresses thankfully won't. A beautiful life, indeed.

BEST ECO-FRIENDLY ART SUPPLIES

Glob Natural Paints

GlobItOn.com

Why would you let your kids slather their hands with petrochemical-based paint? It's a good question, says Berkeley artist Ashley Phelps, founder of Glob Natural Paints. Rather than using chemicals that contain nasty volatile organic compounds, Phelps makes paint from food-grade ingredients like beets, purple carrots, turmeric, red cabbage, tomatoes, annatto seed, alfalfa and marigolds. She got the idea when a chemist friend showed her house paint he was developing using cacti. Phelps wondered why there weren't eco-friendly paint options for artists, and Glob Natural Paints was born. Phelps sells her products online and, as to further conserve resources, ships the paint as dry powder pigments to which users just add water. Fear no art, Glob is here. ●



Maxine Lewis Long Park Ranger Betty Reid Soskin

Stephen Lowenstein

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE PARK RANGER

Betty Reid Soskin

At 91 Richmond's Betty Reid Soskin is the National Park Service's oldest interpretive ranger but that's not her greatest accomplishment. Her tour of the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historic Park sheds light on the dramatic growth of racial minorities in Richmond during those years, drawing on her own experience working as a file clerk in a Jim Crow union hall at the Richmond shipyards in the early 1940s. She recounts how black workers were denied equal status in the auxiliary unions, but organized to develop leaders within their own ranks, and how several ships built and launched in the Kaiser shipyards were named for black visionaries, including the *SS Harriet Tubman* the *SS George Washington Carver* and the *SS Toussaint Louverture*. But Soskin doesn't limit her work to the Rosie the Riveter park, when out of uniform, she attends local political meetings and public art unveilings addresses labor conferences, and keeps up the most active blog and Facebook page of any octogenarian around.

MOST INNOVATIVE ACTIVIST GROUP

Open Oakland

OpenOakland.org

Oaklanders have always had a fierce penchant for community organizing. But until very recently "grassroots activism" didn't exactly conjure up the image of a bunch of self-described data nerds with their laptops in tow talking about code. But venture out to Oakland City Hall on most Tuesdays nights and you'll find Open Oakland, a group of self-described "civic hackers" intent on using government data and technology to create better ways of engaging citizens. Since it started last August, the group has developed an app to monitor the conditions of neighborhood storm drains an Oakland Wiki page o vacant and abandoned property map, and an interactive version of the City of Oakland's 2013-15 budget. While still in the early phase of their project, the hackers have a big ambition to revolutionize the way citizens interact with government. That's as worthy a goal as any other cause.

MOST COURAGEOUS NEW PUBLIC OFFICIAL

Brendon Woods

In California, the public discourse on criminal justice issues has historically been unbalanced, tilted toward law and order and away from civil rights. Part of the problem is that county public defenders — who represent criminal defendants who can t afford to hire their own attorney — are appointed to their jobs, rather than elected, and so are reluctant to take public stands on controversial topics for fear of angering their bosses. District attorneys, by contrast are elected by voters and are expected to advocate publicly on behalf of law enforcement — and against the rights of the accused. But Brendon Woods, Alameda County's new public defender intends to change that dynamic. Since he was appointed last December the first African American public defender in county history is already using his office as a bully pulpit advocating on behalf of indige t defendants and attempting to bring balance to public-policy debates. Woods' desire to speak out for the rights of poor people accused of crimes (often black and Latino young men) is also a personal matter. He was repeatedly victimized by racial profiling as a youth.

BEST OF THE AGAINST ALL ODDS

Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin

With her commitment to grassroots politics and social justice, Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin has been at the helm of a sea change in the city over the last decade. She has





Readers Poll Winners

BEST COMPANY TO WORK FOR
Pixar Animation Studios

BEST HOMETOWN HERO
Barbara Lee

BEST K-12 TEACHER
Russell Wright, Walden Center and School

BEST LOCAL IDEA
First Fridays/Art Murmur

BEST LOCAL INNOVATOR
Stephen DeAngelo

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD
Temescal

BEST NONPROFIT OR CHARITY
Alameda County Community Food Bank

BEST PICK-UP SPOT
Lake Merritt

BEST PLACE TO HANG OUT
Lake Merritt

BEST PLACE TO LEARN DIY OR HOMESTEADING SKILLS
Institute of Urban Homesteading

BEST PLACE TO SMOKE WEED IN PUBLIC
Lake Merritt

BEST PLACE TO TAKE THE KIDS
Children's Fairyland

BEST PLACE TO WALK YOUR DOG
Point Isabel

BEST POLITICIAN
Barbara Lee

BEST PROFESSOR OR COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR
Robert Reich

BEST PUBLIC SPACE
Lake Merritt

BEST RELIGIOUS SERVICE
East Bay Church of Religious Science

BEST VIEWS
Grizzly Peak

MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSON
Jerry Brown

run three successful city council and mayoral campaigns with broad community support since 2004 — despite heavy smear campaigns targeted toward her and the fact that she refused to accept corporate donations in a notorious Chevron run town. Now serving her second term as mayor — making Richmond the largest city in the country with a Green Party mayor — she still lives by modest means in rental housing alongside fellow Richmond residents. A vocal supporter of the Occupy movement, she has advocated for violence-prevention programs, new businesses and jobs, and arts and sustainability initiatives. Even so she's not one to crave the limelight. When you see her around town — and you will at neighborhood celebrations and citywide events — Mayor McLaughlin is often just another smiling face in the crowd ready to listen and happy to be there.

BEST PUBLIC WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM

Urban Tilth

UrbanTilth.org

Urban Tilth is getting Richmond's youth excited about sustainability and healthy eating. The West Contra Costa Country organization works with schools, businesses, and local governments toward a goal of producing 5 percent of the community's food supply from school and community gardens. And with a new sliding scale Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program that's set to launch soon, it's well on its way to doing just that. It also runs programs in K-12 schools and during the summer and measures its success by the fact that 70 percent of its paid summer staff — who lead workdays and install gardens around the Bay Area — started out as youth apprentices. Soon to open a new farm stand in North Richmond, Urban Tilth is sowing seeds in the parts of the county that need it most.

BEST LOCAL HERO

Joy Moore

In an area where local organically grown food seems to be the province of the haves, Joy Moore is trying to make sure it also goes to the have-nots. Possessing a charismatic larger-than-life presence, Moore teaches urban youth at Berkeley Tech Academy about gardening and nutrition, and is also a founder of the Ecology Center's Farm Fresh Choice program whose farmers' markets provide to lower-income people the same produce that's found at higher-end markets. High school students also work the produce stands, and learn valuable skills in the process. Moore's other past achievements include helping to remove soda machines from and introduce salad bars at Berkeley schools. Clearly, Moore's relentless energy reflects a conviction that's truly authentic.

TOP [illegible] OFFICIALS

Chris Magnus

In many cities across America — including Oakland — there is a deep-seated distrust between communities of color and the police departments that are supposed to serve and protect them. People often feel as if police treat them as suspects merely because of their skin color, and, as a result, are reluctant to work with police to lower crime in their neighborhoods. Residents also complain that police commanders don't pay attention to their needs. But Richmond Police Chief Chris Magnus is a top cops who gets it. He knows that reducing crime is not just a matter of enacting tough-on-crime measures. Since taking over RPD in 2006, Magnus has instituted reforms designed to forge better relationships between police and the community — and to listen to what residents want. Every cop in the department is now a community policing officer, and no cop can



Ro[illegible] Kaiser Roof Garden

Spread Lawson

get promoted unless he or she has a record of community engagement. Magnus also learned that a top priority for many residents of low-income areas is addressing trash dumping and blight. So he convinced the city to put those services under his command. And guess what? Violent crime has been dropping in Richmond, while it's been going up elsewhere.

BEST PLACE TO GEEK OUT OVER BEERS

Nerd Nite East Bay

Last Monday of the month at The New Parkway
474 24th St., Oakland, EastBay.NerdNite.com

There's a lot you can do over beers, but most people's lists probably don't include discussing topics like building stuff out of DNA, color theory, the permanence of sleep, a feminist critique of pigeon pin-up girls, and the oft-overlooked Wars of 1812. But with the tongue-in-cheek slogan "Be there and be square," Nerd Nite East Bay promises to give you just that. The event started in various nerdy watering holes in Boston before catching on like wildfire in more than fifty cities nationwide, most of which house large academic institutions brimming with beer-friendly scholars with astonishingly obscure areas of expertise. The Oakland branch's iteration of the monthly series kicked off last October, making the Bay Area the only place in Nerd Nite history to house two separate Nerd Nites in a single metropolitan area — a true testament to our collective nerdiness (and love of beer). Shows are eight bucks at The New Parkway and include three short lectures all guaranteed to blow your tipsy, plebeian mind.

BEST ROOFTOP RETREAT

Kaiser Roof Garden

300 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, 510-225-0865, KaiserGarden.com

When you're seeking some peace and quiet in the city, sometimes the best place to go is up. More specifically, up to the top of the five-story parking garage adjacent to Oakland's Kaiser Center buildings. That's where you'll find a vast tree- and pond-speckled garden located high above the city's streets and (what can feel like) worlds away from the stresses of everyday life. Though the 3.5-acre oasis is sometimes host to summer concerts, weddings, and other special events, the most magical time to visit is during quiet hours — when you can enjoy a book and a bag lunch and sit peacefully among Kaiser Center tenants and employees and anyone else who relishes the rooftop garden for a little respite. It should also be noted that the garden is a free and ingenious place to bring and subsequently impress visiting out-of-towners or even soon-to-be sweethearts on a first date.

BEST USE OF THE LIBRARY

Free Summer Lunch at the Oakland Public Library

OaklandLibrary.org

At local libraries you'll find children reading to dogs, lawyers dispensing free legal advice, and even people playing ping-pong. But perhaps one of the most innovative and relevant uses of the library in recent years is the offering of free lunches to kids during the summer. The ongoing partnership between the Oakland Public Library and the Alameda County Community Food Bank provides free cold lunches to youths under the age of eighteen Monday through Friday, allowing hungry kids to concentrate on reading and other activities while they're at the library. It's a response to the ongoing problem of children who rely on subsidized meals at school during the academic year who have less access to food during the summer. About 7,000 meals were served last summer; this year the library expects to serve even more, and other library systems have taken notice. This year Oakland Public Library staffers will act as advisers to library systems in San Diego, Sacramento, Los Angeles, and Fresno, as they launch their own pilot programs.

BEST PLACE FOR FAMILY FUN

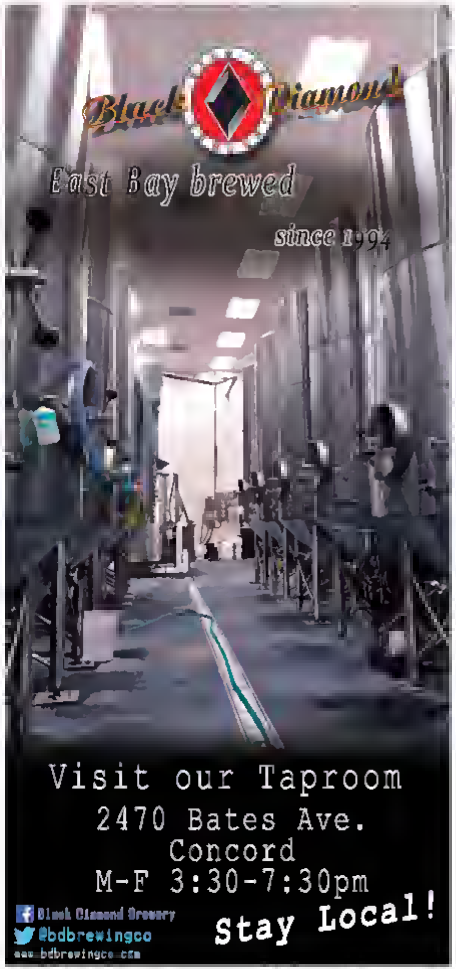
The Lawrence Hall of Science (after the kids are gone)

1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley, 510-642-5132, LawrenceHallofScience.com

The Lawrence Hall of Science is, for the most part, known for its kid-friendly exhibits, entertainment, and science camps — but after hours, it's a truly excellent place for decidedly more, ah, adult activities. Less crowded than Indian Rock, less cheesy than the Berkeley Rose Garden, and less creepy than the Mountain View Cemetery, it's the unsung, make-the-radar local hero of al fresco frottage with plenty of seating (the best of which is atop LHS like-size fin whale replica, Phoena) lots of space, and a sweeping, heart-stopping view of much







Readers Say the Darndest Things.

BEST HOMETOWN HERO

Matt LaPlace

I am a hero to many — *Matthew Pabor LaPlace*

Dear

— *Kelsey Williams*

Steve DeAngelo

He's my brother so I am probably biased. — *andrewdeangelo*

BEST LOCAL IDEA

Salmonetrics

— *Adrian Symeox*

this

— *Rachael Kirk*

BEST LOCAL INNOVATION

Disco Volante

Bacon Jam on a burger??? oh yeeeaaaaaaahhh — *Justin Harris*

BEST PICK-UP SPOT

Rendezvous

Party atmosphere, attractive crowd, and plenty of hormones and flesh on stage to stir things up — *Sam Kandaghabadi*

Target.

seriously. — *firn*

The Internet

— *Beth Altshuler*

The pull-up bars across from Fitness SF

I've never picked anyone up here but I've definitely almost caused a pile-up driving by. best hot-man-watching ever — *sekelelele*

Tourists Without Regrets

getting Nerds, Freaks and Geeks laid once a month for almost 14 years. — *Krystal Asche*

of the East Bay) and, beyond that, the bay and the Golden Gate Bridge. Wait for a clear night, grab a bottle of wine and a willing partner, and get to it.

BEST CHARITY

East Bay Children's Book Project

3612 Webster St., Oakland, 510-406-7323, EastBayChildrensBookProject.org

"Books are a uniquely portable magic," Stephen King once said, and anyone who has had a truly transforming experience with a book would agree — a good one can change everything (where were you when you read *Catcher in the Rye? Their Eyes Were Watching God?* Heck, even *Carrie?*) but books can be scarce for city kids and encouraging children to read just doesn't work if material isn't available. That's where the East Bay Children's Book Project steps in. Since it opened in Maxwood Recreation Center eight years ago, the organization has distributed more than 850,000 free books to children with little or no access to the written word. The project makes books of all sorts available to eager readers — board and picture books, chapter books, young adult fiction and nonfiction, reference tomes and more; the books are distributed through teachers, social workers, and community groups. East Bay Children's Book Project takes donations of cash or books (in good condition, and no textbooks, religious or library books, please) and will help local schools or businesses organize a collection. Donate a book to an East Bay kid — it's sure to work its wonder.

BEST NEW PARK

Golden State Model Railroad Museum

000 A Dornan Dr., Point Richmond, 510-234-4884, GSMRM.org

If you're foresaing for a bit of childhood nostalgia, check out the East Bay's own Golden Gate Model Railroad Museum. A 10,000-square-foot space that boasts three model railroad layouts built and maintained by the East Bay Model Engineers Society. The models range from steam locomotives to diesels, and the engineers have lovingly crafted each layout to accurately reflect scenery and operations on real tracks throughout the state. In the Tehachapi Loop section, long freight trains pass over themselves to gain elevation, just like they do on the real Southern Pacific and Santa Fe lines. Whatever you call yourself — rail fan, transpotter, train buff, or gricer — a trip to the museum will give you that model-train rush you crave.

BEST PLACE FOR AN AFTERNOON STROLL

Mountain View Cemetery

5000 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2881, MountainViewCemetery.org

Despite the spooky overtones, the Mountain View Cemetery is a beautiful spot to stroll on a sunny afternoon, attracting families with strollers and dogs, amateur photographers, and overeager enthusiasts looking for an interesting view to go with their uphill climb. The cemetery, at the top of Piedmont Avenue, might look small from outside its iron gates, but inside there are 226 acres of rolling hills and winding pathways that lead to mausoleums, obelisks, and tombstones. At the very top, on a clear day, you can see the San Francisco skyline across the bay. Built in 1865 and designed by Frederick Law Olmsted — who also designed New York City's Central Park — the cemetery houses some historic figures, including Domenico Ghirardelli, founder of the chocolate empire; Julia Morgan, the well-known architect who designed Hearst Castle; Henry Kaiser, the founder of Kaiser Permanente; and Elizabeth Short, aka "The Black Dahlia," whose unsolved murder rocked Hollywood in 1947.

BEST BEARD

Max Ogden

In some circles, Max Ogden is kind of famous. After skipping college, the young coding prodigy was lured from Portland to the Bay Area by tech guru Tim O'Reilly himself,



Oakland History Room

BEST PLACE TO BRUSH UP ON LOCAL HISTORY

The Oakland History Room in the Main Branch of the Oakland Public Library

125 14th St., Oakland, 510-238-3222
OaklandLibrary.org/Locations/Oakland-History-Room

Probably one of the more underrated resources in the East Bay (except by academics and the odd, informal loot finder) the History Room in the Main Branch of the Oakland Public Library is a positively rich repository of local history. Located on the library's second floor the history room contains items such as yellowed newspaper clippings and old photographs chronicling everything from Oakland birth and death records to the history of the city's lakes and creeks — much of which can be perused over and photocopied by amateur and professional historians alike. Visitors to the room can view rotating historical exhibits and dig for answers to burning questions like, "What on earth is that weird old windmill doing up near 66th and Telegraph?" and "Did Oakland really used to have a streetcar line?" And if ever you need help exploring, a friendly, librarian is always on hand to help you along the way.

BEST WWII SHRINE

Rosie the Riveter/ WWII Home Front National Historic Park

1414 Harbour Way South, 63030, Richmond, 510-232-5050, NPS.gov/rori

How much do you really know about Rosie the Riveter? There's the famous Westinghouse poster and Norman Rockwell's *Saturday Evening Post* cover. But the "Rosie" phenomenon was so much more than those iconic images. Find out how the war Rosies paved the way for women in the workforce at the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historic Park in Richmond, which opened to the public in 2000 in the Ford building complex, near the old Richmond Kaiser shipyards. Start by getting schooled in all things Rosie at the park's Visitor Center before moving on to the Rosie the Riveter Memorial, which began as a public art project for the City of Richmond in the 1990s, and the *Red Oak* the last remaining Victory ship built in Richmond. If you're lucky, you might catch a talk given by a ranger with real experience. Ranger Betty Reid Soskin discusses her experience as a young African American woman during the war while docent Flora Simmons shares stories from a childhood partially spent in an internment camp. With such a rich history, the park is definitely worth a visit.

BEST PICK UP SPOT

Arbor Cafe

4210 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-6222

Arbor Cafe in Temescal was designed for commuting, both with your computer and your fellow neighbor. It's a large and laid back space — most of the tables are big enough to accommodate study groups and knitting circles, though in reality they're often populated by singles taking advantage of the free wi-fi, making the situation ideal for a stranger to walk up, MacBook in hand, for a read and perhaps a peep at your Macbook. "What're you reading?" is a relatively safe opener. The beer and wine menu provides any required courage, and ping-pong tourneys and open mics can be occasional ice-breakers. Sit on the sofas

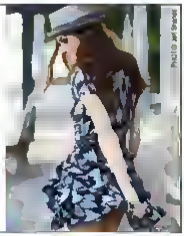
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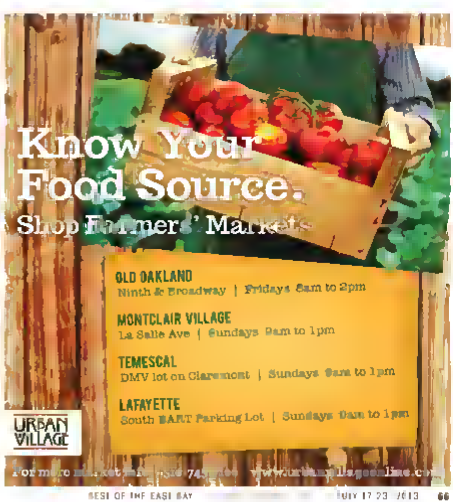
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if you're truly searching — it's impossible to escape a conversation there.

BEST RETRO MUSEUM

Pacific Pinball Museum

1510 Webster St., Alameda, 510-769-1349, PacificPinball.org

Who knew pinball was once considered dangerous? Naysayers saw it as a form of gambling, and the game was banned from the 1940s to the 1970s. The good folks at the Pacific Pinball Museum in Alameda think pinball isn't a crime but rather a fun way to pass a summer afternoon not to mention an excellent demonstration of scientific principles such as physics and electricity. The museum's price of admission ($15 for adults, $7.50 for kids under twelve) gets you free unlimited play on its ninety machines, which include such treasures as an 1879 Montague Redgrave Parlor Bagatelle and 1940s *Mystic Marvel* plus contemporary games like *The Simpsons* and *Creature from the Black Lagoon*. On the source side, don't miss the Visible Pinball Machine — which shows how the game works while the ball is in play — and the Pinbowl Chaos Generator, which demonstrates that eternal principle: Chaos happens.



Stephen Leeuwenstein

BEST REVITALIZATION OF A PUBLIC SPACE

Lake Merritt

Lake Merritt may be the jewel of Oakland, but until fairly recently it didn't always feel like that. For as long as most of us can remember, it's been murky, polluted, and surrounded by potholes starting in 2010, a seemingly endless construction project diverted the walking and running path along the lake's southwestern stretch into a maze of orange tape and dead ends. But this summer, all that came to a glorious end when the orange tape finally came off and the city saw the completion of a $122 million decade-plus-long overhaul that opened the lake up to the bay, renovated several of the surrounding buildings, and, most noticeably, replaced a busy, ugly twelve-lane boulevard with a vast and very pleasant expanse of open space, replete with a bike and pedestrian bridge, plenty of grass, and a small amphitheater. These days, our jewel is shining just a little bit brighter.

MOST UNEXPECTED PATCH OF GREENERY

7701-7705 Potrero Ave., El Cerrito

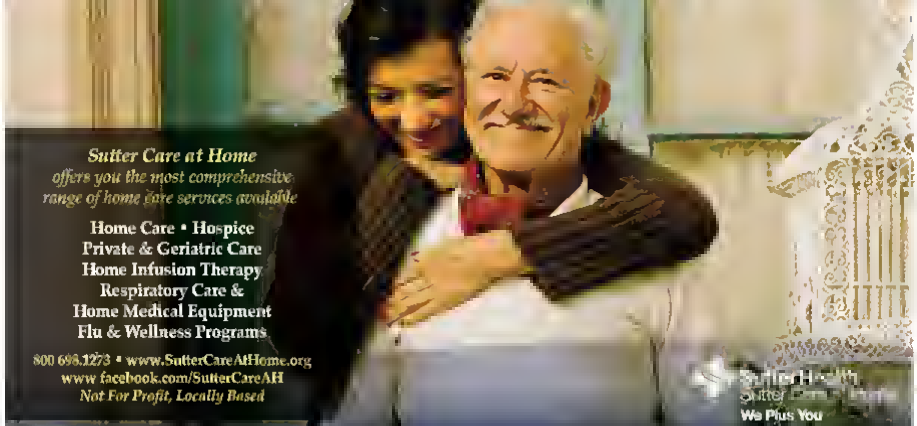
There are many lovely urban parks in the East Bay, but some of our favorites are those that feel stumbled upon. One of the most unexpected patches of greenery we've come across doesn't even have a name, as far as we know, and has little to denote its existence, save for a sign that states it's a hazardous fire area. But the little alley of grass between the houses at 7701 and 7705 Potrero Avenue in the El Cerrito hills leads to a wide-open area and one of the most unexpected and glorious unobstructed views of the San Francisco Bay. It's a perfect place for relaxing, reading a book, or just savoring the view. And the fact that it feels like no one else knows about it (though we're sure many nearby residents do) makes it all the more special.

BEST PLACE TO WATCH FIRE-SPINNING

Dog Shit Park at the Vulcan Lofts

4401 San Leandro St., Oakland

Once a smelting plant, the sprawling steampunkian splendor of the Vulcan Lofts is home to painters, writers, and a gaggle of devotees of the circus arts. Peek your head inside one of the studios and you're likely to find a bed of nails lying on the ground or a trapeze dangling from the ceiling. Dog Shit Park, the aptly named green/brown space adjacent to the Vulcan Lofts, provides a place not only for dogs to defecate but also a convenient venue for members of the Vulcan's fire-spinning community to practice their craft. Which means that on clear nights, Dog Shit Park is one of the best places to catch world-class fire-spinning acts — think flaming staffs, flaming nunchukus, and flaming bolas. If it can ignite and spin, you'll likely see it at Dog Shit Park. And if you get too close, don't worry: Eyebrows grow back.





Best place to power lunch: Tribune Tavern

Alphonse Mendoza

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

Miss Ollie's

901 Washington St., Oakland, 510-285-6168, MissOllieOakland.com

Here's the thing about Oakland's food renaissance: There are plenty of cities that do a better job with white-linen fine dining and three-hour tasting menus. Where Oakland is king is its wealth of inexpensive restaurants where the vibe is chill, but the food is so stunningly good it'll stop you dead in your tracks. So it is that a casual Afro-Caribbean restaurant is the best and most exciting new restaurant to open in the East Bay this year. At Miss Ollie's, lunch is unlikely to cost more than $10, and twenty bucks will buy you a veritable feast at dinnertime. And what a feast. seafood porridge infused with the mesmerizing deep-sea flavor of sea urchin roe; ackee and salt fish, a wonderful down-home version of one of the world's great breakfast foods; and savory split pea fritters. Oh, and in case you haven't heard, chef Sarah Kirnon's fried chicken — the meat perfumed with vinegar-soaked herbs and perfectly skillet fried — might be the best you'll ever taste.

BEST PLACE TO POWER LUNCH

Tribune Tavern

401 13th St., Oakland, 510-452-8742, TribuneTavern.com

Of all the trendy new restaurants to open in downtown Oakland, none have captured the imagination of the corporate power-players, tech-startup warriors, and assorted cubicle dwellers the way that Tribune Tavern has. What better place, then, to do some lunchtime wheeling and dealing, or to woo that hotshot "programmer" you're trying to poach away from some cross-town rival? The unabashedly meat centric menu will sate any power-luncher's deep carnivorous cravings, with decadent versions of pub favorites like shepherd's pie and bangers and mash and huge platters of French fries topped with *carnitas*-style pulled pork and a boozy "foodie" gravy. Almost all of the food is tasty, and the cocktails are carefully crafted. Meanwhile, the stylish vintage-inspired dining room recalls the building's history as the longtime home of the *Oakland Tribune* allowing diners to imagine themselves — romantically — an old time, tough talking, no-guff taking newspaperfolk.

BEST WAY TO DRINK YOUR DESSERT

Mayan Decadence at Ivy Room

656 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5888, IvyRoom.com

Why eat your dessert and drink your booze when you could do both AT THE SAME TIME? The newly reopened Ivy Room's Mayan Decadence manages to be both sweet-tooth-satisfyingly chocolatey — seriously boozy beautifully layered, and remarkably sophisticated, with none of that milkshakey heaviness you often find in dessert drinks — just a healthy base of Chinuco Añejo tequila the subtly herbal hit of Abatentun honey and anise liqueur sweet and spicy mole and chocolate bitters and an orange peel to cut a bit of the richness, served over ice. This is a dessert drink for grown-ups, or maybe it's not even a dessert drink at all. Either way it's worth a trip.

BEST NEW BAR

Fauna

1366 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-286-0166, FaunaOakland.com

Some bars stand out because they scream and shout and beg for your attention. They're the crowded bars the loud bars the bars where you have to fight stray elbows and spilled drinks and swamped bartenders. Fauna is not that kind of bar. Though it certainly does stand out. Low-lit unassuming, barely marked and tucked into a long, narrow former storage closet next door to its big-sister restaurant,





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Readers Poll Winners

BEST AFRICAN RESTAURANT
Cafe Colucci

BEST AMBIENCE AT A RESTAURANT
Mua

BEST BAR
Bar Dogwood

BEST BARBECUE
Everett and Jones

BEST BEER BAR
Beer Revolution

BEST BREAKFAST/BRUNCH
La Note

BEST CAFE
Awaken Cafe

BEST CHEF
Dominica Rice, Cosecha

BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT
Shan Dong

BEST COCKTAILS
Flora

BEST COFFEE
Peet's

BEST DESSERT PLACE
Fenton's Creamery

BEST FOOD AT A BAR
Bar Dogwood

BEST FUSION RESTAURANT
Cafe 9

BEST GAMES/ACTIVITIES AT A BAR
Albatross

BEST GAY BAR OR NIGHT
The White Horse

BEST ICE CREAM
Ici

BEST INDIAN/PAKISTANI RESTAURANT
Ajanta

BEST ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Bellanico

BEST JAPANESE/SUSHI RESTAURANT
Kirala

BEST KID-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT
Picante

BEST KOREAN RESTAURANT
Bowl'd

BEST LOCALLY SOURCED/ ORGANIC MENU
Gather

BEST MEXICAN OR CENTRAL AMERICAN RESTAURANT
Doña Tomás

BEST MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT
La Méditerranée

BEST MOBILE FOOD VENDOR
LIBA Falafel

BEST NEW BAR
BUILD Pizzeria Roma

BEST NEW RESTAURANT
Park Burger

BEST OUTDOOR SEATING
Jupiter

BEST PIZZA
Zachary's

BEST SANDWICHES
Genova Delicatessen

BEST SEAFOOD
Marica

BEST SERVICE AT A RESTAURANT
Park Burger

BEST TACO TRUCK
Sinaloa

BEST TAKE-OUT FOOD
Gregoire

BEST TEAHOUSE
Tea Here Now

BEST THAI RESTAURANT
Chai Thai Noodle

BEST VEGETARIAN/VEGAN RESTAURANT
Souley Vegan

BEST VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT
Pho 84

MOST GLUTEN-FREE-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT
Mangrove

BEST SOUTHERN/SOUL FOOD
Souley Vegan

Flora is a easy to miss — but that would be a huge mistake because Fanna is easily the best bar to enter the already-crowded Uptown nightlife scene in the last year. Always lively though never stray elbows level crowded, welcoming and friendly without being pushy, about it sophisticated but still quirky enough to feature as a decor element a *Donnie Darko*-style stuffed rabbit perched on a tiny chair and wildly unpretentious considering the drinks are *really really good*. It's the kind of place that feels a bit like the living room of your very coolest friend, if only your friend were an assassin with a cocktail shaker and somehow had access to really delicious *horrors*. Fauna may be hard to find, but it's equally hard to forget.

BEST NEW AUTHENTIC REUBEN

Stag's Lunchette

362 17th St., Oakland, 510-835-7824, StagsLunchette.com

Any chef with fancy equipment and a healthy dose of self-esteem can come up with a consciously bougified take on a classic, but the Reuben at the breakfast and lunch spot Stag's Lunchette in Uptown is a master class in what can happen when a good chef with access to good ingredients tweaks something that's already great and makes it even better — not out of pride or spite or hubris or the intention of reinventing the wheel, but with creativity and skill and just the right balance

Try Our New Summer Drinks



Iced Coffee



Strawberry Chata™ Shake



Coffee FrappaChata™



Root Beer Float



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RECIPES

Beer Beer Float
1 part RumChata
3 parts root beer
Combine over ice in a tall glass
Variation: To avoid separation, please pour root beer over ice first then add RumChata to cooled root beer. Also, a "dark" or "spiced" root beer is recommended as they seem to separate less than other beers.

RumChata Colada
Add 1 ounce of RumChata to your favorite pina colada recipe for the smoothest colada you have ever tasted.

RumChata by Elvis
4 parts RumChata
1 and 1/2 parts spiced rum
1/2 part banana liqueur
1 tsp. peanut butter
1/2 a banana
1 scoop vanilla ice cream
OR 1/3 cup ice
Combine ingredients in blender. Blend until consistency is smooth, pour into tall glass.

RumChata Iced Coffee
1 part RumChata
2 to 3 parts room temperature coffee (adjust coffee level to your taste)
Shake with ice and pour into a tall glass

Strawberry Chata Shake
1 part ice cream
1 part frozen strawberries
1 part RumChata
1/2 part rum
1 part ice
Blend until smooth and serve into tall chata glass

Coffee FrappaChata
1 part very strong coffee or espresso
2 parts ice cream (vanilla or chocolate)
1 part RumChata
1/2 part rum
1 part ice
Blend until smooth and pour into tall glass
Inside chocolate syrup if desired

Strawberry FrappaChata
1 part frozen strawberries
1 part pina colada mix
1 part RumChata
1/2 part rum
1 part ice
Blend until smooth and pour into tall glass

Aries

[illegible] If [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] egg Cosmo [illegible] Alcoholiday or five at [illegible] [illegible] anyway. Elsewhere's Sean [illegible] a sense of support from the familiar [illegible] you

Taurus

No one can help you if you never talk about [illegible] seems. Don't try to shoulder [illegible] alone. Come to Merchants Saloon [illegible] a few too many and be THAT guy/girl at [illegible] Please remain seated.

Cancer

Um. Sorry. How do I put this? Um. [illegible] Go to Merchant's Saloon today. Eye-pat it off with a Rotten Apple™ or [illegible] them Elvis sent you.

Gemini

Expect bumper tantrums on the home front. [illegible] haven't been telling someone go to Merchant's Saloon. A few Car Bombs will [illegible] only answer. Oh ya: when you raise [illegible] in the [illegible] restroom, remember [illegible] me next time, and please tart [illegible]

Leo

Serious aspects of today's New Moon Eclipse are amplified because you can't overdose your emotions which subsequently intensifies your drinking. You're [illegible] to throw up. This is a day for inner journeying, so study that vomit widely. It will make more sense later on. [illegible] 401 Second St.

Virgo

Your research skills are first-rate and you are rarely wrong. You are definitely looking around on the stripper pole at Merchant's Saloon. Don't be afraid to show a little leg. You've had a few 24 ounce long islands and probably won't remember how embarrassed your girlfriend is. Spending more time drinking and making your life complicated can result in embarrassing moments.

Libra

Be careful of taking your frustrations out on those who tolerate you. I'm pretty sure they have pepper spray. Don't let the past sneak into the future – You SHOULD have another drink even though you've had a shee

Sagittarius

You're on the couch and your girlfriend is giving you shit. It's slowly creeping back to you. Thank one for many Black Eyes at Merchants, then please the bad. Well done.

Capricorn

July and the beginning of August means a splash of lime between two of the more mellow people at Mercury [illegible] new menu. One would hope that this [illegible] your calmness. Don't be fooled by the [illegible] sense of peace – merely a winking eye of the storm that waits. Some have referred to this time as Uranus in ASTROGLIDE

Aquarius

I know you're ruled by Uranus but pull [illegible] out for a second. Just allow your [illegible] to unfold the story even if you don't understand why it smells like that. [illegible] bartender may be of significance to you right now. Pandas are dick [illegible]

Scorpio

No matter how emotionally you get caught [illegible] Merchant's Saloon [illegible] look at the situation with a pair of [illegible] 12 steps. I think you'll find the whole [illegible] people! Go smash! Buy [illegible] at Merchant's Saloon parties!

Pisces

[illegible] the boneless brownish [illegible] You are the only one to help each [illegible]



Brad Kelly's vegan banh mi at Shuggie Cocktail Emporium in Berkeley

Shuggie Cocktail Emporium

of respect and irreverence. The meat itself always the star of the show is damn near perfect here — a high quality brisket that's cured for weeks smoked for hours and seasoned with a host of spices before being topped with house-made caraway seed-studded sauerkraut and thin sliced, perfectly melty Gruyère. But the real secret is the bread: Slug's owner Alexeis Filipello uses levain instead of rye the logic being that the rye's flavor distracts from the rest of the sandwich and that legit being 100-percent correct. The result a Reuben that's got all the flavor — and, even more importantly — all the drippy-sumey deliciousness of the kind of sandwich your grandfather might've eaten forty years ago but is somehow better. Leave the $38 meatloaf and egg yolks suspended in liquid nitrogen to other people: we'll just be over here eating this awesome Reuben.

BEST SLICE OF SWEET

Caramel Bacon Bread Pudding at Café Q

2362 Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-521-8848, CafeQAlameda.com

The bacon backlash may be in full force (see the recent expulsion of the Baron Bacon truck from its Upper Haight HQ after its "piercing aroma" offended neighbors or any number of food blog treat listicles) but here's the thing. Bacon tastes *really really* good — no matter where, exactly we are on the spectrum between buildup backlash and backlash to the backlash, and especially when it's prepared by a talented chef and used in unexpected ways. Case in point: Café Q's utterly addictive Caramel Bacon Bread Pudding, in which a thick, well-spiced, impossibly dense bread pudding is studded with chunky pieces of bacon and generously drizzled with caramel for a salty sweet smoky gut bomb. In a good way. Dessert that you'll continue eating long after you get [illegible] very full. It's a beautiful thing. The holy union of sweet and savory of bacon and bread of one kind of animal fat with, ah, another kind of animal fat. Backlash be damned.

BEST SUBTLY VEGAN-FRIENDLY SHOP

Timeless Coffee Roasters & Bakery

4282 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1380, TimelessCoffeeRoasters.com

Since opening in December Timeless has been drawing in drowsy with its housemade, single-origin espresso and pour-over roast pumpkin rouladas chocolate cake "Twinkies", and salted caramel truffles. But few may realize that it's also the only all-vegan artisan coffee shop in town. The decision to be 100% vegan is not uncommon when Cinnabon started offering its sumptuous cinnamon buns near the UC Berkeley campus three years ago the only indication that the shop was 100-percent vegan was the flyers advocating for animal welfare on the windows. Now thanks to Timeless vegans can also indulge in decadent cakes, pastries, and truffles (some of which are also gluten-free) as well as high-end espresso drinks. Vegans of the Bay Area, rejoice!

BEST NEW TURF A FIERCE MEXICAN FOOD

Nido

444 Oak St., Oakland, 510-444-6436, NidoOakland.com

There's no shortage of restaurants in the Bay Area serving upscale Mexican food geared toward "slow foodies" and Alice Waters acolytes — where the sustainably raised *pollo* is name brand but where bold flavors, sadly, often get watered down and *grunge*-ified. In the Jack London neighborhood, Nido succeeds where others have stumbled in part because the menu doesn't just consist of more expensive versions of taqueria standards. Yes you'll find quesadillas and tacos on the menu, but the restaurant's biggest strength is chef Silvia McCollow's "home-cooking" approach to the cuisine: simple roast chicken rubbed with ground chiles and served with seasonal vegetables and the *olla de pobre* one-pot meal featuring rice, beans, and whatever lovingly-slow-cooked meat the kitchen is featuring on a given day. Alice Waters would approve, but, then again so would many a Mexican *abuelita*.

BEST EXTRAS

LIBA Falafel

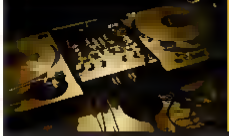
LIBAFalafel.com

Let us consider for a moment the plight of the condiment. It is, almost by definition, an afterthought a late-breaking addition a lead-up or accessory to the main event. And for every artisanal ketchup or house-made jam out there far too many eateries are perfectly content to serve up the standards and call it

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Readers Say the Darndest Things.

BEST AMBIENCE AT A RESTAURANT

Golden Lotus

Dude- every time I m in there instrumental ABBA is playing and it s kind of the best thing ever — *M.J.Lawless*

Candle light and quiet so you can hear what you date is saying — *carole steinbrink*

BEST BAR

Marsheats

It e also the best place to watch drunk people try pole dancing. — *Wonder Dave*

Best Chef

James Abyshout

F**@$! Mashallin for not awarding him a second star He and his staff totally deserve it. — *beastoid!*

Michelle Bart

Sh. s the creator of th. cutest sands at Make Wrestling Need I say more — gk

Whomever's cookie over there at the Saggatjun Gala

Anointe? — *Daniel Pugh*

BEST COCKTAILS

Bar 355

The housemade tonic surpasses anything ever I wish they bottled it so I could continue my binge drinking at home! — *zoomy66*

Plum Bar

th. carrot and the mule, my lord — *Miranda Everett*

BEST FOOD AT A BAR

House Bar

Fried chicken and maple biscuits. Why are you reading this? You should be there already? — *Andie Coulter*

Plum Bar

Smoked French fries what!?? — *Theresa Kelly*

Tele at Eli's Mile High Club

It is the only thing without freezer burn too — *John M rphy*

n day. Not LIBA Falafel where the toppings are the main event and the (crunchy and flavorful and excellent fo thele-own right) falafel balls come with unfettered access to the truck's twenty-some-odd condiments and sauces, for your among-and matching pleasure. Think crispy refreshing red cabbage sprinkled with toasted black sesame seeds, or crunchy pennuts with a light dusting of rosemary or a rich and ever-so-slightly sweet braised-eggplant-and-tomato "sauce" that's so thick you could (and would) eat it with a fork or a zesty orange and beet salad that adds a welcome brightness to a tahseni dish that's already undoubtedly buckling under the weight of SO MUCH RICHNESS or fried pickled onions that basically make onion rings look like a bland, heavy waste of time. May the condiment never be given short shrift again.

BEST PLACE FOR VEGANS AND CARNIVORES TO PEACEFULLY COEXIST

Gather

2200 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-809-0480, Gather@restaurant.com

You would think that in the food-obsessed East Bay, restaurants would've mastered the art of catering equally to meat lovers and vegans. And yet very few have. But Gather's chef Sean Baker has struck the perfect balance. He's a known pork lover who received the bulk of his training from Eric Tucker of San Francisco vegan restaurant Millennium. As a result, his menu bar been known to offer at any given time up to ten vegetarian dishes, five vegan ones, and six with meat — ranging from rabbit to squid — in addition to eight gluten free dishes. This doesn't include Gather's all-star "Vegan Charcuterie" dish which includes four delectable vegan and gluten free masterpieces. Freed from the shackles of menu restrictions diners of all sorts of dietary persuasions can eat together peacefully.

BEST USE OF LEATHER

The Night Light

311 Broadway Oakland, 510-433-0340, TheNightLightOakland.com

The Bay Area has found no shortage of fun and interesting ways to engage with leather in a Friday or Saturday night but let us consider for a moment how *incredibly pleasant* it is to sink into a really comfy leather chair at the end of a long work week preferably with a cocktail in one hand and a friend at your side. Look no further than new-ish Jack London district bar and music venue The Night Light where the brass-tacked burgundy quilted Queen Anne sofas are inviting, plentiful and just about the perfect place to curl up with a book a beer and/or a buddy. They coupled with the rest of the design — velvet wallpaper vintage nudes antiquey lighting fixtures — make for a space that's like a library. If you could house regularly in the library, or like your grandfather's house if your grandfather were slightly hipstery and okay with loud music, or may be just like a really good, comfortable, easy bar the kind you want to stay while at

ST HAVEN FOR [illegible]PHILES

The Legionnaire Saloon

2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, LegionnaireSaloon.com

"It sounds better on vinyl" says everyone with two ears and a heart, oftentimes unprompted. A killer jukebox does elevate a drinking experience from satisfactorily drunkenness-inducing to favorite-bar status but a curated selection of 45s? Almost unheard of in the era of digital jams. Uptown's Legionnaire Saloon flips the script by placing a premium on quality tunes. The new bar and music venue encourages local DJs to take control of its jukebox by picking and choosing their favorite albums for the masses. Every two months, a different DJ selects the 45s that appear in the 1973 Rockola jukebox which can be played for just a quarter and all proceeds are donated to West Harte Middle School's music program. Add in four classic pinball games and entertainment including burlesque and live music, and we're ready to say it. We may have found your new favorite hangout.

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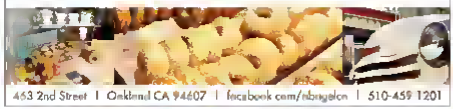


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Stephen [illegible]

BEST [illegible] PUB FOOD

Elevation 66 Brewing Company

10082 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-525-4580, Elevation66.com

It's become increasingly common to find upscale food offerings at bars these days, but one of the best gourmet pub menus can be found at El Cerrito's Elevation 66. In addition to being the perfect spot to enjoy an imperial pint before a movie at the Cerrito theater or people-watch with friends, the brewery is also a place to enjoy dishes like locally-sourced grilled cheese, house-made sausage with spaetzle dumplings and a shiso lime sorbet (the menu rotates often). The juicy Wagyu beef burger with curried aioli on an Acme bun is so satisfying for the meat lover as the avocado, olive tapenade, and crispy shitake mushroom sandwich is for the vegan. An incredibly punctual kind, and all-knowing server can suggest which one of the brewery's six varying home brews — for example, a chocolaty stout or crisp Kolsch, or a hoppy red ale — will best match your food. With a casual, welcoming atmosphere and impeccable food, beer and service, Elevation 66 has the buzz of Uptown and the palate of the Gourmet Ghetto but with none of the pretension.

BEST NEW AUTHENTIC INDIAN

Juhu Beach Club

5179 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-7358 JuhuBeachClub.com

Many things about Juhu Beach Club could serve as a reasonable tip-off to the restaurant's awesomeness — the bright cheerful design, the playful whimsy menu (the staff that seems genuinely, impossibly happy — but if you're looking for a perfect encapsulation of Preeti Mistry's ambition and imagination, there's no better place to look than the "Holy Cow" part one of the restaurant's five variations on the gau — India's answer to the slider basically, in this case featuring a tender smoky cardamom infused beef short rib and light refreshing cucumber raita sandwiched between two buttery Starter Bakery buns. Like everything at Juhu, it's seasonal but not sloppy, complex but not complicated, undeniably well executed a little irreverent and fundamentally unlike most of what you'll find on the menu at standard issue American Indian places. Juhu is one of the best restaurants to open in Oakland this year and it's part of a new crop of places that manage to hew to tradition while still feeling entirely modern places that toy with and ultimately demolish our long-held ideas about authenticity, places that feel in that ineffable way, so thoroughly East Bay. It's tough to imagine them existing anywhere else. This isn't the kind of Indian experience you'll find at other restaurants but why would you want it to be?

BEST $5 [illegible] UNDER $10

Half Monster Salad at Souley Vegan

301 Broadway, Oakland, 510-922 1615, SouleyVegan.com

It's hard enough finding a tasty and filling meal for less than ten bucks in and around downtown Oakland — let alone one that's fresh vegan and (relatively) healthy. Enter Souley Vegan, where a mere $6.54 (including tax) buys you a heaping portion of lettuce, avocado, cucumber, sprouts, and savory, crispy-delicious falafel and tofu bits — all perfectly fresh and completely delicious, and all mixed up in a dressing that appears to be made of vegan mayo, cayenne, and fairy dust. It's enough to feed you for at least two meals — that is if you're disciplined — as well as possibly, question why you would ever eat anything else for lunch again.

BEST PLACE [illegible]

Make Westing

1781 Telegraph Ave., 510-251 1400, MakeWesting.com

Plenty of bars worth their salt (get it?) can hook up a popcorn machine in some corner and call it a day, but that's not really Melinda Vivas's style. Make Westing's chef has managed to create one of the best and most ambitious bar-food menus in the East Bay out


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Readers Say the Darndest Things.

BEST FUSION

Champa Garden (Lao/Asian Fusion)

I just RAN of Champa Garden is! You do not talk about Champa Garden! I yell at my friends for posting pictures on instagram! I shouldn't even be voting for it. — *David Segretto*

Sana

If I hadn't been on a date I would have licked the dish clean that our green tea crème brulee was served in. — *Ali Neuenschwander*

BEST ICE CREAM

Ici

There's always a line. It's always worth it. — *Anne Coulter*

Ramona ice cream.

Stupid name, but this light, creamy flavora have won me over. — *Suzanne Forbes*

BEST MEXICAN OR CENTRAL AMERICAN RESTAURANT

Fiesta Tacos

SHUTTHEFRONTDOOR have you *tried* their taquitos?! HAVE YOU?! And the dipping sauce; Wakka Flaca Flavaz, baby. Just thinking about this place, I uh, have to go change my unmentionables... brb. — *MJLoaders*

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

Mike Ulla's

Hi Sarah, ya hodoso! I LOVE YOUR OXTAILS!! — *Melissa Romero*

BEST PIZZA

Gather

Who would have thought a vegan pizza would rock my world so hard? — *zoecy66*

Jupiter

I have dreams about the Circe pizza. — *Ali Neuenschwander*

BEST SANDWICHES

(Single) Bake Sale Betty Fried Chicken (Plural) Ike's

Bake Sale Betty's Fried Chicken is my favorite sandwich but you said Sandwiches, so Ike's hot sandwiches are the bomb! What Philly would call Grinders where their cold Hoagies are just so good! — *Daniel Segretto*

Ike's Place

cuz they're dirty sauce is so true to name. — *Josh Gillespie*

BEST SOUTHERN/SOUL FOOD

Southern Kitchen

The best!!! Oh my god its so good — *Chris Voss*

Lines out the door while the hamburger joint next door is empty. Only in Oakland! — *Tom Hohb*

of a tiny kitchen and limited staff, so perhaps it should come as no surprise that even the popcorn is hands and shoulders above your standard bar popcorn. Vace infuses this ann with cilantro and habanero and then coats it — wah as usual a touch that's both deft and dehenta — in lime butter, Cotija cheese, and Aleppo peppers for a citrusy, salty-spicy snack that'll make you forget Orville Redenbacher ever existed. Best at all: A heaping basket of the stuff will set you back o more $3.

BEST NEW AUTHENTIC PIZZA PLACE

The Forge

66 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-268-3290, TheForgePizza.com

The Bay Area's awash in all manner of superserious pizza places — the kinds of restaurants where the finer points of crust density are discussed with the deepest gravity, where the chef trained for years in Napoli and, when serving, something like, say, chicken wings would amount to sacrilege. Forge is not one of those places; it's something much better: a thoroughly modern, unabashedly American very Oakland pizza restaurant that's serious about quality ingredients and perfect technique — but not so serious it won't put fried cheese on, yes, wings, on the menu. The pizza is to die for: very good — cooked in an 800-degree oven and topped with fresh, seasonal, local ingredients, with a crust that's salty, chewy, largely blistered, and damn near perfect — but even so, thin-vibe unpretentious, the prices are fairly reasonable, and the ambience is less white-tablecloth than convivial waterside brewpub. And yes, both thin wings (smoked and served with a tangy light buttermilk dressing, a classed-up bar snack if there ever was one) and the cheese curds (high-quality mozzarella fried to high heaven and served with a rich marinara sauce) are very very good. Seriously.

BEST BITE FROM THE ASHES, LITERALLY

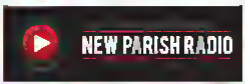
Commonwealth Cafe & Public House

2082 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-663-3001 CmenOakland.com

It was every restaurateur's worst nightmare: On Sunday, July 8, 2012, an electrical fire ripped through Rose and Adam Adair's cozy two-year-old, UK-themed bar, cafe and restaurant, rendering the refrigeration system inoperable. The inside charred, and the whole place all but wrecked. But what happened next was also unexpected. The restaurant community banded together for a series of benefits, pop-ups and general goodwill, raising that generated money for the construction, kept Commonwealth's name on people's lips, and gave its staff some much-needed work hours. Businesses like Grand Tavern, Kitchener, Oakland, Oaklandish, and Truebarger donated food and kitchen and refrigerator space for a successful pop-up event at Linden Street Brewery; Hawker Fare and Beer Revolution both offered their spaces for special fundraising events; Actual Cafe and Beauty's Bagel Shop each lured one of Commonwealth's now-unemployed staff members, and Oaklandish printed up T-shirts free of charge to be sold at various events as a fundraiser. Commonwealth reopened in October, almost three months to the day af the fire; it was by all accounts packed.

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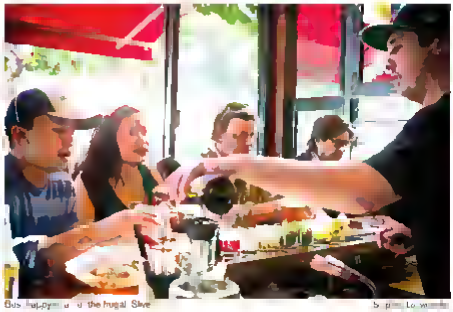
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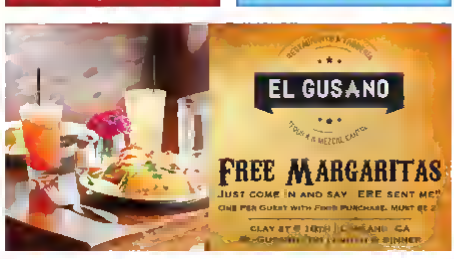
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HAPPY HOUR FOR THE FRUGAL

Sliver

2132 Center St., Berkeley, 510-356-4044
SliverPizzeria.com

The recession may be (mostly) over and carbs may be cut (again), but anyone who feigns indifference at the prospect of 100 PERCENT FREE PIZZA is either living or possibly a robot. During happy hour at the newish downtown Berkeley restaurant Sliver (which is, by the way, a lovely convivial bye-must-having place in its own right) 100 PERCENT FREE PIZZA notwithstanding) every single drink comes with you, a "sliver" a (generous) half sized slice of fresh, piping hot pizza made saucelessness and vegetarian in the style of Cheeseboard Pizza (from which many of Sliver's staff came) and covered in a rotating-daily selection of fresh, seasonal vegetables — fresh roma tomatoes red onions, mozzarella, Bulgarian feta, lemon zest, and cilantro say — cremini mushrooms, yellow onions, mozzarella, and French goat cheese. Better yet this isn't some kind of ploy to coax you into paying for an overpriced and undrinkable drink. Beers start at $4, cocktails at $5, and there's nary a watered-down "punch" in sight – just affordable, delicious booze and FREE PIZZA for as far as the eye can see (they 7 p.m.) which means three drinks will get you nicely drunk and fairly well fed for about $15. Come hungry and leave your robot friends at home.

BREAKFAST

Beauty's Bagel Shop

3638 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-788-6098,
BeautysBagelShop.com

The East Bay is a bagel wasteland no longer. But of all the artisan purveyors to emerge last year, none has made the prospect of going out to breakfast as lovely and enticing as Beauty's Bagel Shop. Beauty's serves up dense chewy no-frills-they-needn't-be-toasted Montreal-style bagels out of its wood-burning oven all morning and into the afternoon. But the bagels are just the start. Owners Blake Joffe and Amy Remson transplants from Pennsylvania, churn out consistently delicious dishes in decidedly West Coast fashion, with little pretension and superb ingredients. Anything that can be made in-house is. There's an incredible level of detail attention, and love brought to everything they serve from old-school favorites like deviled eggs and chicken scrapple to a crispy chicken sandwich dripping with schmaltz. To boot they serve Flying Goat coffee — rich piping hot and full bodied — for only $1.75 a cup. Forget waiting for brunch, Beauty's is popular but if there's a line, it moves fast. And with prompt service and a dining room flooded with natural light, you'll probably want to linger anyway.

BEST VEGAN MEXICAN FOOD

Flacos

3031 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510 981-9081,
Flacos.com

For years, vegans and lovers of delicious crispy fried things (which is pretty much everyone) could only feast on Flacos' meatless *taquitos* at the Berkeley farmers' markets. But since 2009 they only have to head over to Flacos' quaint casita just east of Ashby Bart for their *taquito* fix — although you'll likely find long lines during its $1 Taquito Tuesdays. In keeping with owner Arlome Magana's "Food is Revolution" motto, Flacos serves only organic locally sourced, and GMO-free ingredients, and a plate of brown rice beans salad, and your choice of tuna *taquito* or tamale made with soy protein and doused in spicy avocado salsa will fill you up for less than ten dollars. The perfectly balanced flavors will linger on your palate long after your visit.

BEST ICE CREAM SANDWICH

Black Sesame Ice Cream Sandwich at Ramen Shop

5912 College Ave., Oakland, 510 788-5370,
RamenShop.com

CREAM devotees be damned — Ramen Shop's black sesame ice cream sandwich, its signature dessert is the best in the East Bay. Perfectly tempered every time it's served the modest sammy manages to intrigue, mystify and satisfy. The brown-sugar cookies are thin but incredibly moist, balanced by an inch and a half of rich black sesame ice cream that's

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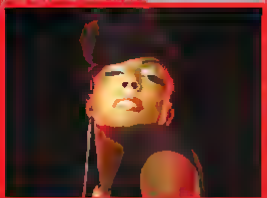
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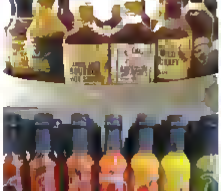
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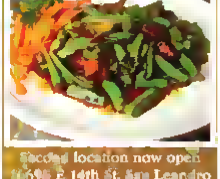
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neither too sugary nor too savory — striking that sweet/salty chord that makes it conceivable to consider consuming another and another. The two sugar-coated yelk cubes that are served with it are a treat, too. Ramen Shop isn't trying to be authentically Japanese, but it couldn't be more enthusiastically East Bay because the chefs recognize that to do things exceptionally they're probably going to have to do less. All of the delicious items on their limited menu, down to the cocktails, are prepared thoughtfully and with integrity. When execution tastes this good, what's there to disdain?

BEST STOMPABLE PIZZA JOINT

BUILD Pizzeria Roma

2286 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-898-1839, BuildPizzaRoma.com

Downtown Berkeley's newest pizzeria allows diners to customize their pies in an assembly-line setup. Specializing in authentic Roman-style thin crusts, BUILD allows you to choose from an array of high-quality pizza foundations and fixings. Highlights include Molinari sopressata salami (15-day-old) Il Boschetto di Tartufo cheese, and Italian mixed olives. If you're feeling uninspired, try one of the house recipes; we're partial to the Mediterranean and the Carne (a meat lover's paradise. Check out the iconic black-and-white photographs decorating the walls while you wait for your personal pie to bake. Tack on a side salad for only $4.50. Although a build-your-own-drink feature doesn't exist yet there are beers and wine on tap. Don't hesitate to build up your expectations.

BEST AFFORDABLE EATS

Asha Teahouse

2998 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-9137 AshaTeaHouse.com

Go to any college campus where there's a sizeable Asian American population and you'll find at least half a dozen places specializing in pearl milk tea — sweet milk tea served with chewy black tapioca balls (or "boba"). Many of these bubble tea cafes are fast food operations where the teas are powdered and the boba is heated in a microwave — the Asian equivalent of an ICEE shop or a Dairy Queen. Asha Teahouse is the exception. Order almost any drink off the menu — the Hong Kong Milk Tea or any of the seasonal fruit teas, made with fruit that's pureed in-house — and you'll taste the difference. Here the teas are brewed with loose leaves, the boba is cooked fresh at least twice a day, and each drink is mixed and shaken by hand, not by a machine. Factor in the sleek, modern decor and the well-curated selection of snacks, and you've got yourself a boba shop that's a cut above the rest.

BEST LOW-KEY FOOD TRUCK GATHERING

Bites Off Broadway

Every Friday, May to October 5:30-8:30 p.m. 385 45th St., Oakland 510-654-5348, BitesOffBroadway.com

Despite much handwringing on the part of brick-and-mortar restaurant owners, it appears that the food truck revolution is here to stay — and with it, the notion that wherever at least two or three gourmet food trucks are gathered in a pretty good place to have a party. In Oakland, there are bigger food truck gatherings and ones that are more popular (but for the past three years, Bites Off Broadway has been in a class of its own in terms of providing a low-key, community-minded experience. The lines for the six or so trucks that gather in front of the Studio One Art Center each Friday are rarely more than a few customers deep, and there's a big stretch of lawn where families and friends can spread out on a picnic blanket and enjoy the late afternoon sunshine. There's room for the kids to run around and, often, lawn games and live music. What's not to like?

BEST WINE BAR (WITH MINIMAL ADDITIVES)

The Punchdown

2212 Broadway, Oakland PunchdownWine.com

The Punchdown serves so-called "natural" wines, made from hand-harvested organic grapes with minimal fussing — i.e., little to none of the added yeasts, sulfur, sugar, acids, tannins and coloring agents that co-owners DC Looney and Lisa Costa say dominate the "Frankenwines" stocked on many wine shelves. It's the kind of place with a totally obscure wine list, and where reference books are kept on a shelf in the back of the bar just in case customers are extra-curious about Punchdown's niche offerings. It's a testament to the owners' genuine love of wine that a bar with such a heavy, ideological hand can seem so relaxed and frankly, fun. It could easily win an award for "least pretentious" wine bar. From its Lou Reed heavy soundtrack to the quality of its food, The Punchdown is a destination for any wine-lover — aficionados and otherwise.

BEST (NEW) AUTHENTIC USE OF RECLAIMED WOOD

Chop Bar

247 4th St., #111 Oakland, 510-834-2467, OaklandChopBar.com

There's perhaps no more obvious sign of the "new authentic" aesthetic in the East Bay than the ubiquitous presence of reclaimed wood. Adding a roughness and refined earthiness, reclaimed wood has become so common that it can sometimes feel forced, and occasionally, falls flat. But Chop Bar nestled between the condos and warehouses of the Jack London district, executes the ambience perfectly: its bold but tasteful use of charred, scratched and multicolored wood epitomizes the upscale-yet-casual vibe the restaurant strives for — from its food to its drinks to its decor. Designed by Jeffrey Ruiz, the interior includes wood that was gathered from an old barn in Marin and, something to savor Chris Pastena, really "sets the tone for who we are." Perhaps that's what's so special about the use of the aged wood at Chop Bar: there's no pretense about it. We couldn't imagine the space any other way.

BEST BEER GARDEN

Telegraph

2313 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8353, TelegraphOakland.com

There are as many reasons to go to bars as there are types of bars. And sometimes you just want to feel like you're drinking a cold one in your backyard. Telegraph is just that establishment. It feels like it was opened by someone who had no other agenda than to provide his neighbors and friends with a comfortable spot to gather, relax, and drink. Its low-key and unpretentious and delivers solidly on the two most important elements of a beer garden: many outdoor seating and affordable pints (twelve beers are now on tap). It goes one step further by offering tasty house-made sausage and burgers, as well as vegetarian options. Telegraph's community-minded ethos is explicit — there's a weekly film screening, poetry nights and colorful graffiti adorns the enormous North facing wall. If only every neighborhood were so fortunate.

BEST EVERYDAY BRUNCH SPOT

Jodie's Restaurant

902 Masonic Ave., Albany, 510-526-1199, JodiesRestaurant.com

If delicious, no-frills, stick-to-your-ribs Sunday brunch is something worth celebrating, then every day is a party at Jodie's, arguably the best old-school greasy-spoon breakfast spot in the Bay Area. One wall of the cramped, cubbyhole of a space where owner Jodie Royston presides is completely covered with specials — mostly breakfast fare — that are typed up on colorful laminated placards. Eggs Royston (an extra-tangy riff on Eggs Benedict)

Charles Grilled Cheese (featuring beef hot links and a fried egg), the Nothing (which is an awful lot of food for "Nothing") and dozens more. The punnily named specials may put a smile on your face but it's the perfect execution of the simplest things — scrambled eggs, hash browns, grilled English muffins — that keep Kaster's legion of loyal customers coming back week after week.

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD CAFE

Cafeina

1388 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-8069, CafeCafeina.com

This cozy, unpretentious Solano Avenue cafe is not just another trendy, boutique coffee shop. It's been serving its Albany neighbors homemade baked goods, high-grade coffee, and delicious organic breakfasts and lunches with local ingredients and humanely raised meats since 2006. Stroll into the brightly colored cafe and owner Maria Myers will make you feel like you've just dropped in to a neighbor's kitchen for a chat — that is, if your neighbor's kitchen had an endless supply of gooey, golden blueberry muffins, lattes with imaginative designs drawn into the foam, Applewood bacon frying on the stove, and a seasonal fruit pie baking in the oven. Myers also keeps the lunch counter stocked with an array of local artists' goods for sale, from candles to greeting cards to books that were donated up a month ago right there. Come for the organic fare, and stay for the good company.

BEST HIDDEN LUNCH SPOT

Rio California

1233 Preservation Park Way, Oakland, 510-834-2565

Tucked inside a restored Victorian in Preservation Park, Rio California is the very definition of an oasis. Set off away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Oakland, this tiny Brazilian cafe and its sprawling, palm-shaded deck feel like they've been transplanted from a tropical beat and breakfast offering a few moments of peace in the middle of a busy workday. The food, too, provides an escape to some far-off sunny place, and a happier state of mind. Fish tacos made lively by a sweet-and-spicy corn salsa; Brazilian-style jerk chicken and hearty tuna-salad and chicken-salad sandwiches that bring to mind lazy summer days on the beach at Rio. Best of all is the *feijoada*, Brazil's national dish, a complex and perfectly balanced mean of slow-cooked black beans, bacon, sausages, toasted manioc flour and rice — a dish so good you might close your eyes and forget, for a moment, exactly where you are.

BEST AFRICAN RESTAURANT FOR ADVENTUROUS EATERS

Miliki

3725 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-531-6970, MilikiSpot.com

When it comes to food, what might be labeled an "adventure" for one person is just plain-old dinner for someone else — nothing strange or exotic about it. Still, for Bay Area foodies who feel jaded by the sameness of many restaurant offerings, Miliki, a Nigerian restaurant in Oakland's Laurel neighborhood, offers plenty of dishes to excite diners looking to try something new. To wit: highlights of the menu include crispy black-eyed pea fritters; steamed bean cakes (like a Nigerian take on tamales); a spicy pepper soup that's infused with the bittersweet flavors of sundry medicinal herbs; and a variety of earthy, long-cooked stews, which diners scoop up with their fingers using a piece of pounded yam dough. Wash it all down with a bottle of caramel-y, non-alcoholic Malta Guinness — just one more Nigerian import that you'll find worth your while to try.

BEST COFFEE SHOP DESTINATION NORTH BERKELEY

Catahoula Coffee Company & Roastery

12472 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-0525, CatahoulaCoffee.com

Owner Tim "Timber" Manhart had opened up Catahoula Coffee Company & Roastery in Berkeley or Oakland, it would've just been another pour-over cafe. But because it's in Richmond, Catahoula bears the distinction of being the only coffee shop of its kind in town. It's best known as a gathering spot for locals to sip strongly brewed coffee and espresso drinks. And the beans are top-notch. Catahoula's house-roasted blends are now available at Monterey Market and Berkeley Bowl, in keeping with its small-business ethos. The cafe hosts poetry readings and music performances, and recently committed to buying all of its energy from renewable sources. And if you catch Manhart at the counter, he will no doubt engage you in a name game until you land on a friend, neighbor or former co-worker you have in common — all while demonstrating his new favorite coffee-brewing technology. So breathe in the smell of roasting beans, sample the latest brew and stay a while.



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BEST FOOD COURT FOR THE NIGHT OWL SET

Daimo

Pacific East Shopping Mall 3288A Pierce St., Richmond, 510-527-3885, DaimoUSA.com

When the staffs of the trendiest restaurants in Berkeley and Oakland finish their twelve-hour shifts after their customers have filled up on *barrajas*, stuffed squash blossoms and filet mignon steak, chances are you'll find them at Daimo in Richmond's Pacific East Shopping Mall. The restaurant is known far and wide for its delicious authentic dim sum — enormous bowls of noodle soup braised short ribs; roasted duck and thick stalks of greens covered in brown sauce. Share a dish of dumplings or sweet sesame balls with your table and the servers will come by to cut them into quarters with a pair of scissors. As one of the few restaurants in the East Bay that stays open until 3 a.m., Daimo has no problem attracting hungry and grateful diners.

BEST TOAST

Pizzaiolo

5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4386, PizzaioloOakland.com

Everyone knows about the seasonally topped thin crust pizza at Pizzaiolo, which some might argue is the apotheosis of California-fied Italian cooking. But the Temescal stalwart's morning coffee and

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pastry program is still somewhat of a secret — albeit a poorly kept secret, given the size of the crowd many mornings. We could fill several paragraphs with praise for the light-as-air buttermilk doughnuts or the well-made espresso drinks, which are as reliable as clockwork. But mostly, what we love is the toast: thick slices cut to order from some of the loveliest loaves you'll ever see (baked daily in house), equal parts chewy and crunchy and deeply fragrant with a hint of sourdough tang. Served with house-made condiments — sweet offerings included strawberry-rhubarb jam and a Meyer lemon marmalade — and a huge hunk of soft butter, this is one plate of bread that is sure to win over any breakfast connoisseur who's ever thought that toast is an afterthought rather than the main course.

MOST FRIENDLY, CHARISMATIC FOOD VENDOR

Elmy Kader of Royal Egyptian Cuisine

There are very few food vendors like Elmy Kader. His bright-blue truck, which he parks diagonally on 2nd and Webster streets in Oakland's Jack London district, proclaims in huge letters "FROM THE ANCIENT LAND OF THE PHARAOHS! EGYPT," while a laminated sign next to the menu states, "SUPERSIZE THE FOLLOWING: a) if you smoke "herb" weed that is. b) if you are really, really hungry. c) if you are broke and want to invite somebody. it is big enough for Two." There is a picture of a blown-up this sign for no apparent reason, but somehow it all makes sense. Exuberant to a point that can occasionally be confusing, Kader harks back to a time when food trucks weren't shiny pretty things filled with seemingly endless troves of gourmet fusion. He's always guaranteed to put a smile on your face — be it with his sparkling personality or his equally distinctive style of Middle Eastern cooking, served up generously with lots of free samples. Kader's is a food truck to remember.

BEST VENUE FOR LIVE MUSIC AND GREYHOUNDS

Cafe Van Kleef

1621 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-763-7711, CafeVanKleef.com

There's a profound sense of fin past and present at Cafe Van Kleef. The walls are adorned with vintage bric-a-brac — the kind of stuff your grandpa might collect. If your grandpa was David Lynch — and you might find a Berkeley student quietly reading a book at the bar while dancers two-step near the raised stage. Whether it's blues, jazz, or something more experimental, the live music is always good and almost always free, as the bar's management recently eliminated cover charge for most events. On the three or four nights of the week without a live show, the bartenders play everything from Sonny Rollins to Yo La Tengo. Keeping this volume low enough for easy conversation. For many, the only drink to order in the bar's famous greyhound, for which bartenders hand-squeeze fresh grapefruits, but there are also delicious variations like the blackhound, which swaps vodka for tequila (try it with a salt rim). Cafe Van Kleef also has regular drink specials, and if it's your birthday, the bartender will usually offer a complimentary celebratory drink.

BEST BUDGET MENU

Lena's Soul Food Cafe

1902 High St., Oakland, 510-842-3618, LenasSoulFoodCafe.com

Dollar menus have long been the purview of fast food chains, and highly processed, sugar-laden foods are the name of the game. You get what you pay for, as they say. Lena's turns that paradigm on its head by putting a variety of slow-cooked homemade items on its popular 99-cent menu. Everything at this family-run restaurant is served cafeteria-style and it's not health food by any stretch. But dishes like rice smothered in rich pork gravy, fried chicken drumsticks and thighs (fried in small batches throughout the day) and beef hot links (glazed with a stinky-sweet barbecue sauce) are good for the pocketbook and the soul. Thrifty diners can cobble together an entire meal ordering exclusively off the 99-cent menu, those with hearty appetites can top off their dinner combo — say a plate of oxtails or smothered pork chops — with a couple of sides.

CLOSEST APPROXIMATION TO INDIAN HOME COOKING IN A RESTAURANT SETTING

Masala Cuisine

7812 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-878-2643

At the only Indian restaurant located in Deep East Oakland, customers sit at the edge of the kitchen, just steps away from where the onions are chopped and the dough for the *makki di roti* (thin Indian equivalent of corn tortillas) is patted down by hand — where every dish is prepared to order more or less from scratch, by owners Roopbal and Sushil Masih. There's a novelty to sipping hot chai and digging into a plate of butter chicken in this setting, in a tiny hole-in-the-wall located on a desolate stretch of International Boulevard populated mostly by used car lots. But Masala Cuisine wins converts based on the merits of the Masihs' home-style cooking — from the earthy, ginger-kissed *saag ke saag* to the not-so-deep-fried vegetable *pakoras* to the welcoming service, like what you'd expect to receive at the home of a dear uncle and auntie.

BEST KOREAN RESTAURANT FOR ADVENTUROUS EATERS

Kang Tong Degi

3702 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2898

If you spend much time dining at any of the excellent Korean restaurants in Oakland's "Koreatown," chances are you've eaten your share of barbecued meats and rice bowls and tofu stews. At Kang Tong Degi, perhaps the East Bay's most hidden-away *soju bang* (Korean pub), you can get good versions of all the standards. But you can also feast on sautéed chicken gizzards dipped in an addictive salt-and-sesame-oil slurry. You can order a big pot of *budae jjigae* (or "army stew") the most soul-warming pot of soup you'll ever consume that counts Spam alloyed hot dogs and instant ramen noodles among its ingredients. Most thrilling (or daunting) of all, you can cross chrysanthemum soup off of your *Bizarre Foods* to-do list. And if the spicy (and rather foul-smelling) broth filled with silkworm pupae leaves a bad taste in your mouth? There's always cold OB beer or a *soju* cocktail to wash it down.


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Best cafe experience that isn't at a cafe: Flowerland. Stephen Lewinnecin

BEST CAFE EXPERIENCE THAT ISN'T AT A CAFE

Flowerland

1330 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-3590, FlowerlandShop.com

Coffee isn't just for cafes and restaurants anymore. The Heath Ceramics showroom in San Francisco serves Blue Bottle Monkey Forest Road a home furnishings shop serves Verve But the nursery Flowerland may be the best example of this new trend. A quaint Airstream trailer run on-site by the owners of Berkeley cafe Local 123 serves Four Barrel Coffee. You can sip your espresso while looking at Flowerland's extensive collection of succulents and flowers. Or you can park yourself at one of the small tables situated among the blanket flowers and citrus trees and read, write or talk. The mini cafe turns the nursery into more than just a place to buy plants: it's more like a lovely park.

BEST CARIBBEAN RESTAURANT

Sweet Fingers

864 E. 18th St., San Leandro, 510-553-9889, SweetFingersRestaurant.com

Upon arriving at this bright-yellow restaurant you will immediately notice that there's no way to get a glimpse inside — but don't be afraid to open the door. Hidden behind it is Chef Clive Barnes, a Jamaica native and the restaurant's owner who will usher you up at one of the tables covered with colorful plastic tablecloths. The reggae jams will begin to relax you as you browse the extensive Haitian menu featuring a variety of cocktails, including a "Jamaican milkshake" — a blend of bourbon, dark rum, and vanilla ice cream. On the food menu, you'll find a variety of meats and fish in gumbos, curries, and — of course, spicy jerk — style seasoning. Fortunately Sweet Fingers also has an impressive vegetarian menu (yes, there's jerk tofu). After ordering, be patient and unwind — it will be worth it. The entrées are full of rich flavors and come with a heap of rice and beans and plantains — making the prices more than reasonable. With a chill vibe and delicious cuisine Sweet Fingers will always leave you much happier than you came in.

BEST INDIAN INFUSED COCKTAIL

Ornament of the World at East Bay Spice Company

2134 Oxford St., Berkeley 510-845-4422, Facebook.com/EastBaySpiceCompany

Downtown Berkeley's newest bar East Bay Spice Company located just west of the UC Berkeley campus, features the cuisine of northern India but the real spices can be found on its drink menu. Our favorite of its Indian infused cocktails is the Ornament of the World: a blend of cynar and rum that is given a sweet spicy and tart kick from sugarcane Mumbai bitters and lime garnish. The drink is both lightly refreshing and flavor-rich — perfect on a hot summer day. For the ultimate sensational experience close your eyes, take a bite of samosa and listen to the Oxford Street traffic — you'll feel like you're in the center of Mumbai.

BEST RESTAURANT FOR AUTHENTIC CHINESE TAKEOUT

New Gold Medal

389 8th St., Oakland, 510-465 1940, NewGoldMedal.com

In Oakland's excellent workaday Chinatown we have a favorite purveyor of roast duck and another for pork and yet another for wonton noodle soup. But whenever we need to grab a quick dinner and don't feel like stopping a half a dozen different storefronts, we always wind up settling in an order at New Gold Medal, where the vast menu doesn't have many weak links. Want barbecued meats? The crisp-skinned roast pig and soy-sauce chicken are some of the best in town. In the mood for noodles or pork? You can't go wrong with the various chow fun and chow mein options, and the rice porridges are delicate and flavorful. For a family-style meal try the shrimp and scrambled eggs (a comfort dish through and through) the lobster noodles (whenever the lobsters in the tank look lively), and whatever Chinese greens are in season. Simply stir-fried with garlic. Truly, though, it's hard to go wrong.

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Categories We Didn't Think Of

BEST MACARONI AND CHEESE OF THE BAY HOMEROOM
I'm a regular addict. The place is heaven. They know my name and I love that! The cutest staff ever. The Mac and Cheese dishes are excellent creative and affordable and they care about that kinda stuff. — *Bre Nicole*

BEST BURGER
CHOP BAR
medium rare with a fried egg on top MMMMMMMM —*PARLOUR*

CLEANEST BATHROOM IS A BAR
Lapis Lounge Saloon
— *Tracy Parker*

BEST FALAFEL
Ahimsa
I can't believe everyone is always talking about Sahnse. Ahimsa in Berkeley blows them and everyone else out of the water. Fresh, lightly crispy, crunchy on the outside, garlicky, perfect on the inside — gurney

BETS CHICKEN WINGS
Pyng Rad
— *Coolem*

MOST DOG FRIENDLY PLACE TO EAT
Grand Lake Kitchen
— *Anneliese Bilger*

BEST BARTENDER
Jane from Needair driving range
—*David Veler*

BEST PAN-AMERICAN RESTAURANT

Bocanova

55 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-1233, Bocanova.com

Tour Europe and the Americas, all from the waterfront at Jack London Square. Oakland's Bocanova features the East Bay's best Americano-European fusion cuisine, with a distinct Latin flavor and fresh local ingredients. Sip on the refreshing Hibiscus Soother, a cachaça Caipirinha cocktail infused with hibiscus mint and lime garnish. Start with the Dungeness crab deviled eggs, served with a zesty chipotle aioli, or the Pacific Rock Fish ceviche seasoned with tomato cilantro and Peruvian aji amarillo peppers. We also love the slow roasted pork tamales, which comes with a poached egg, queso fresco, and spicy tomatillo sauce to give it a kick. Enjoy a bottle of fine wine — from Spain, Portugal or North or South America — with your meal on "Wine-Down Wednesday," when bottles are half off. Fusing the European style with American flavors, Bocanova really is the best of both worlds: the Old and the New.

BEST USE OF RAIDERS LOGO

Kim's Backyard

2424 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-834-6624

Raiders paraphernalia is objectively scary. So, at first glance, is the owner of Kim's Backyard. Which is why it's so perfect that besides a smattering of Christmas lights, Raiders gear is basically the entire decorative concept behind the venerable institution/bar owned by slight, frail, fearsome seventy-year-old Kim Obwa Junkee. There's two blink-and-white Raiders logos on the sign outside, dozens of stickers and flags lining the bar, a glowing Raiders clock above the cash register and framed posters hung on every bit of wall space. Usually sipping on cognac and keeping a hawk's eye on your popcorn levels (if she likes you), Kim seems like she could easily command an entire team of 250-pound football players with just a sharp glance. But she has said she opened up her bar because "It's like a party. I like to party." Thus, the Raiders shrine is just her version of great party decor.

BEST WHOLE HOG DINNER

Oliveto Restaurant and Cafe

5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356, Oliveto.com

Once a year, Oliveto goes whole hog — literally. It's five-day Whole Hog dinner series in February features an à la carte menu using all parts of the pig, from nose to tail. Hosted by Oliveto's Bob and Maggie Klein, the dinners are inspired by the Italian tradition of slaughtering a pig in the winter and preparing wholesome meals to last throughout the year. Chef Jonah Rhodehamel has included dishes such as a spit-roasted whole leg, boudin noir with sauerkraut, zampone sausages, and a house-cured and aged prosciutto, among a variety of cured meats. With a week full of pork, consider the Whole Hog Dinners to be winter's Thanksgiving. Finally, a food related reason to look forward to February.

BEST SERVICE AT A RESTAURANT

The Boot and Shoe Service

3300 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-763-2668, BootandShoeService.com

There is a finely tuned ballet of hosts, servers and bartenders at Oakland's Boot and Shoe Service. It's apparent from the moment your party walks in. After giving your name to the host and ordering drinks at the bar, two minutes later the host will find you, seat you, and a bourbon will bring you your drinks (which are delicious) the correct one in front of the correct diner. How did he find you? The waitress takes your order in a timely fashion and the drinks are billed appropriately. It's just another smooth night of well-paced food, drinks, and service.

BEST RESTAURANT FOR WATCHING THE B'S SOCCER MATCH

MLK Cafe

3860 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, 510-450-0660

A pop-up hangout spot for Ethiopian and Eritrean men, this quirky cafe where garlicky pasta pizza and East African breakfast specialties vie for menu space, is always lively

(bordering on rambunctious), and, dav ar night there's *always* a soccer game on. But walk in any on a random Tuesday afternoon when an especially important Barca match is on the tube, and you'll swear you've just stepped into the grandstand of Camp Nou itself. There's hooting and hollering and much wild applause, and if you have even a passing interest in The Beautiful Game, it's hard not to get caught up in the excitement. It helps too that the beer is cold and plentiful, the grass is great, and the ceviche (spicy dough balls) and the Extrovert-style scrambled eggs are simply divine.

BEST LATE-NIGHT HANGOUT THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE BITCHOL

Mr. Green Bubble

4299 Piedmont Ave., Ste. D, Oakland, 510-786-4160

Not in the mood for alcohol? Skip the bar and head to Mr. Green Bubble, which is open until midnight on Friday and Saturday and 11 p.m. on weeknights. The bubble teas, frozen yogurt, and free wi-fi draw a lot of students by day, but at night the brightly lit green and white store gets packed with emo couples and board game aficionados (who hang in the back to play intellectual strategy and word games). The vibe is as fun as any bar — busy, sure, too crowded to sit down, and casually hip — and, even better, you can scope out potential love interests and actually see what they look like. Just try not to overindulge in the Taiwanese-style fried snacks and creamy milk teas.

BEST NEW TRADITION ON TELEGRAPH AVENUE

Off the Grid

Thursdays, 5-9 p.m., Haste St. and Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, OffTheGridSF.com

To make an experience out of eating is a Bay Area tradition, no matter whether the food comes on a warm plate or in a greasy-to-go container. And there's perhaps no better example of this than the food truck gathering Off the Grid, which now includes several East Bay iterations. One of our favorites happens only blocks from the UC Berkeley campus every Thursday evening. Each week brings eight to ten of the Bay Area's finest food trucks, with favorites like Curry Up Now, The Chairman, Au the Go, and The Crêpe Brûlée Cart. So grab some friends, enjoy the live music and string lights, and indulge in a social meal together without the drama of deciding which restaurant to choose and splitting the bill. It's a Cal student's dream come true.

BEST BROWN-BAGGING

Ramen Shop

3812 College Ave., Oakland, 510-788-6378, RamenShop.com

Oakland's newest noodle joint, Ramen Shop, is so popular that it doesn't even need a sign on its door. Started by Chez Panisse alums Jerry Jaksich, Ravneil Di Guzman, and Sam White, the restaurant serves Japanese ramen with a Californian twist. Each night features three broths, typically a pork, vegetarian, and seafood option. We love the ground pork belly miso broth, which came adorned with half a shoyu marinated egg and a few cooked veggies in the mix. For those of you who think of a Styrofoam cup of hard, kinky twigs and dehydrated "vegetables" when you hear the word ramen, these noodles, salted to perfection, will change your mind — plus, they're free of pesticides, GMOs, and MSG. In other words, they're worth however long you have to wait to eat them.

BEST BURMESE FOOD

Burma Superstar

1346 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-8290; 4721 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2900, BurmaSuperstar.com

It's hard to tell which dish is the superstar at the East Bay's best Burmese restaurant. Start with the Food Network featured tea leaf salad, which includes authentic Burmese tea leaves. For your main dish, go with the Oh Noh Khauswe, and you'll answer "Oh yes!" This traditional coconut chicken noodle curry — seasoned with onions, cilantro, lemons, and eggs — is a staple of Burmese cuisine. And if your taste buds are craving something sweet, try the *falutha*, a layered bread dessert served with honey and fruit. The influence in these delicious dishes — many of which can be made vegetarian upon request — comes from India, China, Laos, and Thailand. Our only wish is that Burma shared a border with the East Bay, too.

BEST MARGARITA

Comal

2020 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-926-6300, ComalBerkeley.com

You don't need to travel south of the border to get your tequila fix. Downtown Berkeley's most popular new Mexican restaurant, Comal, located only *un tiro de piedra* from the BART station, serves a heck of a margarita — a blend of Cimarrón Blanco tequila and agave syrup, garnished with lime or salted rim. Served on the rocks instead of blended, it's not too sugary, and is quite refreshing. The sweet-and-salty cocktail goes great with Comal's tortilla chips and three salsas, and is best enjoyed on the restaurant's outdoor patio, where a fire pit will keep you toasty in the cooler months. Inside, the bar and outdoor tables are self-seating, so you can drink and snack while you wait for a table. You won't mind doing so.

BEST MONDAY NIGHT NIBBLES

Bay Wolf

3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6064, BayWolf.com

Michael Wild and Larry Goldman's restaurant has been an Oakland institution since 1975, and it just keeps getting better. Their Monday-night menu includes tasty nibbles and bites at a bargain. Try the calamari verde, seasoned with red onion, cilantro, and crispy shallots; the duck liver flan; or a salad with Little Gem lettuce tossed with tomatoes, haricots verts, boquerones, and Reggiano cheese — each for only $10. For only $4 each, an omnivore's fantasy: seasonal arugula wrapped in a ribbon of prosciutto, smoked to perfection. Other options include cherry-and goat-cheese popovers and fried zucchini with a zesty Padrón pepper dip. Now you have a reason to look forward to Mondays. You're welcome. ●

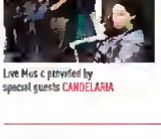


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Hipline

3187 College Ave., Berkeley 510-356-7784
3270 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-653-1070, MyHipline.com

To an outsider looking in, a room full of women spinning and marching across the dance floor in unison, hips and hands cutting through the air while chanting "Who runs the world? GIRLS!" may seem a bit intimidating. But when you're in the middle of it, it feels like you've been on tour as Beyoncé's back up dancer for years, even if it's the first time you've set foot in a dance studio. Such is the vibe at Hipline, which was started by sisters Gabriela and Samar Nassar as a way to encourage women of all ages to enjoy the hell out of exercising. Every instructor seems like she genuinely wants to be there, and the routines — including belly dance and Hipline's own brand of dance cardio "Shimmy Pop" — are designed so that participants can add their own moves without fumbling one complicated step. And at the end of an hour, you'll feel like you've run a marathon — with ten pound weights strapped to every limb. And yeah, you'll feel like you run the world.

BEST URBAN OASIS

Richmond Greenway

RichmondGreenway.org

The Richmond Greenway, which runs through the infamous "Iron Triangle," is changing the area's reputation for crime and blight. Originally the property of Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, the stretch of land sat barren and unused for 25 years after it was deeded to the City of Richmond in the late 1970s. Today, carefully tended flower and vegetable beds, mosaic-encrusted benches, and brightly colored murals line a well-maintained walking and bicycling path. The area is not just a throughway but a gathering place for youth, families, and local workers. Community organizations maintain sections of the Greenway, and it draws residents from all over the city with events featuring live music and food booths several times a year. It's one of the most tangible examples of positive change pumping through the city of Richmond.

BEST FUNDRAISER ON FOUR WHEELS

Skate Til U Die

InstantAssholz.com

If there was ever any question as to whether a skateboard could be used for more than just shredding, local punk rocker John Eppard (better known as John the Baker) has the answer. In 2009, the stalwart skater — no stranger to traveling long distances by bike and board — started Skate Til U Die, an annual three-day skateboard trek from Richmond to San Jose to raise funds for various good causes. Each May, brave participants in the four-wheeled fundraiser propel themselves largely by way of the Bay Trail, across some twelve cities and sixty miles, ending each night with a punk show and much deserved rest. Sixty skaters attempted — and sixteen completed — this year's event, raising approximately $2,500 for MusiCares, a nonprofit that helps musicians in times of need. Skate Til U Die is no doubt one of the most hard-core and offbeat athletic fundraisers in the East Bay, and participants can take comfort in knowing that not only are they raising much-needed money for nonprofits, but if exhaustion overtakes them on their arduous adventure, there's no shame in hopping on a BART train to give their tired feet a rest.

BEST WOMAN ON WOMAN ACTION

Bay Area Derby Girls

BayAreaDerbyGirls.com

For the Bay Area Derby Girls (aka B.A.D.) Girls, the days of roller derby as a fisticuffs-swirling, hair-pulling, sex-on-wheels theatrical performance are over. With the sport under consideration for inclusion in the 2020 Olympics, and the B.A.D.

Readers Poll Winners

BEST ATHLETE (AMATEUR)
Tim Thompson

BEST ATHLETE (PRO)
Stephen Curry

BEST ATHLETIC EVENT
Oakland A's Games

BEST BASKETBALL COURTS
Mosswood Park

BEST BIKE TRAIL
Bay Trail

BEST BOOT CAMP
Oakland Adventure Boot Camp

BEST FITNESS CLASSES
Game Changer Fitness

BEST GROUP ATHLETIC ACTIVITY
Game Changer Fitness

BEST GYM
Game Changer Fitness

BEST HIKE
Tilden

BEST MARTIAL ARTS STUDIO
Soja

BEST OUTDOOR OR SPORTING GOOD STORE
REI

BEST PARK
Tilden

BEST PILATES STUDIO
Innerstellar

BEST PLACE FOR WATER SPORTS
Oakland Estuary

BEST PLACE TO PICNIC
Tilden Park

BEST PLACE TO RUN
Lake Merritt

BEST PLACE TO SWIM
Lake Temescal

BEST SPORTS LEAGUE FOR ADULTS
Bay Area Derby Girls

BEST SPORTS LEAGUE FOR KIDS
Oakland Girls Softball League and Soccer Shots (tie)

BEST TENNIS COURTS
Berkeley Tennis Club

BEST YOGA STUDIO
Monkey Yoga Shala

BEST YOGA TEACHER
Tim Thompson

MOST UNUSUAL WAY TO STAY IN SHAPE
Sex

Girls league ranked internationally, the derby girls have tossed out the ipatick of yesteryear in favor of lifting weights — and it shows. Attend one of their games and you'll witness high levels of athleticism. These are women who aren't afraid to get an elbow to the face, despite the fact that the days of wrestling and clotheslining are behind them. The Richmond Wrecking Belles, Berkeley Assistance, Oakland Outlaws, and San Francisco 3rdEvil Dead host games eight months of the year and are a testament to female athletic fierceness. Audience members, however, are free to don tutus so they wish.

MOST VENERABLE PRO SPORTS FIGURE

Al Attles

When the Philadelphia Warriors made the cross-country move to San Francisco in 1962, their roster included a 26-year-old guard named Al Attles. He was there when they made the shorter move to Oakland in 1971, when they won their only NBA title in 1975 (as coach), when they climbed back to respectability in the Eighties (as general manager), and in various front office capacities ever since, including his current gig as "Warriors Legend & Ambassador." At 71 years and counting, his continuous affiliation with the team is the longest of any current NBA employee. With Attles still going strong, it seems like the biggest threat to his claim as the longest-tenured pro sports figure in the East Bay is geographic: the Warriors' planned move back to San Francisco. Here's hoping the longtime Oakland resident can talk the team's ownership into keeping his commute short.

BEST [illegible] TRAIL

Tamalpais Path

Between Codornices Park and Tamalpais Rd., Berkeley

There are many lovely staircases and walkways connecting the winding streets of the Oakland and Berkeley hills, but one of our favorites is Tamalpais Path. It begins in a redwood-shaded corner of Berkeley's Codornices Park, where a wooden bridge looks you over Codornices Creek and a little waterfall. As you begin to ascend the curved concrete steps, you pass by another bridge that leads to a woodsy private residence. You continue to rise a total of 183 steep steps through a wild canyon thick with ivy and blackberry bushes and under a canopy of bays, redwoods and oaks. You're suddenly in complete solitude, miles away from civilization (save for the graffiti on the fence that runs adjacent to the steps). At the top, you find yourself with a lovely treetop view under a large redwood. Wasn't it worth the climb?

BEST [illegible] TEAM

Cal Women's Volleyball

Looking for a way to connect with your daughter that doesn't involve shopping or a wireless device? Want to expose her to female role models who are smart, spirited, and powerful? Then pick up a couple of tickets to watch the Cal Women's Volleyball squad battle it out with Stanford, USC, or one of the other elite teams in the Pac 12. The action is non-stop, the athleticism impressive, and the atmosphere upbeat and charged — she'll like it even better

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Bust out in pool: The Richmond Plunge

Stephen Lowenstein

than a video game. And to top it off, it's cheaper than a movie. The season runs from late August through November; ticket information is available at CalBears.com.

BEST LITTLE POOL

The Richmond Plunge

1 East Richmond Ave., Richmond, 510-620-6820, CityofRichmondCA.US

Summer isn't summer without swimming, and East Bay readers know that the best place for an afternoon of old-fashioned water play is the Richmond Municipal Natatorium — fondly called The Plunge — an 87-year-old treasure in the Point Richmond historic district. At 160 by 60 feet, the Plunge offers plenty of room to spread out. It boasts an open truss ceiling like the one at San Francisco's now-defunct Sutro Baths and a mural by local artist John Wehrle that depicts a serene blue lagoon under a cloud-studded sky. Devotion to the Plunge runs deep: Even after it was damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, ruddeaths continued to use it, despite city warnings, until 2001, when it was finally closed for renovation. Reopened in 2010, the Plunge is now considered one of the greenest public pools in the country, using solar heat to warm its 324,000 gallons of non-chlorinated saline water. And it's affordable: $5 for adults and $3 for kids. So grab your suit, your goggles, and that flowered pink swim cap Grandma used to wear and head to Richmond for a plunge you won't forget.

BEST YOGA STUDIO

Adeline Yoga Studio

3320 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-982-1873, AdelineYogaStudio.com

As overused and cliché as the word "community" is, that is exactly what comes to mind when describing Adeline Yoga Studio. There isn't a more welcoming, comfortable yoga studio in the East Bay. Since Heather Blaze Phillips, an East Bay native who is among the highest certified Iyengar yoga teachers in the Bay Area, took over in January, the studio has been undergoing constant improvements. During a weekend of renovation efforts in April, troves of students turned out to help. The studio defies all of the annoying superficial conventions that are sometimes associated with yoga — that it's for the rich, young, thin and white. At Adeline, students are all ages and skill levels. Focus is placed on precision and alignment; teachers encourage students to listen to their bodies and modify poses as needed; and there's always enough time to get into a position that will actually serve you. Classes are never so packed that you need to fear being elbowed by a lululemon-clad twenty-year-old with an eight-pack. If you can't afford to make a regular commitment, sliding-scale community classes are offered three times a week. Adeline is all substance and no frills.

MOST ELECTRIFYING HOOPSTER

Stephen Curry

The Golden State Warriors would not have made their improbable playoff run this spring were it not for their star point guard Stephen Curry. Throughout the season he was one of the best players in the league — and often its most electrifying. During the Warriors' four-games-to-two victory over the Denver Nuggets in round one of the playoffs, Curry was flat-out the best player on the floor. And against the eventual Western Conference champion San Antonio Spurs, the six-foot-three 25-year-old started out spectacularly before suffering an injury. His 44-point performance in game one of the Spurs series was a night for the ages. The former first-round draft pick was unstoppable, raining down threes, driving past helpless defenders for easy buckets, and dishing out eleven assists in his teammates. The Warriors with Curry quarterbacking the team proved they were one of the best in the game. We can't wait for the 2013-14 season to begin.

BEST LITTLE WHISPERER

Curt Young

Before the 2012 season, baseball experts argued over whether the Oakland A's would be the worst team in the American League or the worst in all of baseball. The A's, after all, had the lowest payroll in the majors and a team full of castoffs and has-beens. The naysayers were wrong, of course. The A's put together one of the most remarkable seasons in franchise history, winning the American League West division over the highly ranked — and highly paid — Texas Rangers. Although much of the press coverage focused on the team's numerous come-from-behind victories, the real secret to Oakland's success was its pitching staff, which turned out to be one of the league's best despite the fact that it included eleven rookies. So how did these inexperienced pitchers pull it off? As we noted in our cover story last year, "Moneyball 2.0: The Pitching Whisperer," Oakland's pitchers credited Curt Young, their soft-spoken pitching coach whose unique way of communicating with them propelled the A's to their magical season. And he's doing it again in 2013.





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It is the mission of Oakland Pride to celebrate the cultures and diversity of the LGBTQ community in Oakland and the East Bay.
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Readers Say the Darndest Things.

BEST ATHLETE (AMATEUR)

Demonie Hot

of Bay Area Derby Girls... she's terrifying in an amazing way! — *Laura Bruland*

BEST ATHLETIC EVENT

Bowling

I love to bowl. It is a fun sport and one that anyone can play. I see kids, teenagers, adults, seniors, men, women, and all sorts of people bowling. It is a sport that you can do casually with friends once in a while, or join a league and be competitive. It is a sport that allows for a diverse crowd of people to play, and it's good fun for the family. The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) is currently attracting youths and offering people the opportunity to get bowling balls for free so they can experience the thrill of playing the game. Bowling is a great sport that anyone from any gender, any size, or any age can enjoy. For that reason I believe it is the best athletic event. — *Marshall A Brown*

BEST PLACE FOR WATER SPORTS

In private! — *Imogen*

MOST UNUSUAL WAY TO STAY IN SHAPE

GART

Because the escalators are never working. — *carlos colom*

BEING A STRIPPER!

— *Nicky Digel*

Bay Area Derby Girls Reckless Rollers

The friendliest and most awesome, kick ass group of women you could ever hope to surround yourself to and ten minutes later get heartily smashed in the hips by. — *Robin Tuthow Lord*

Brainercising

when you're drunk, you just don't care how much it burns! — *Kirsten Sjaegren*

Sexercise

If you are not sweating, you are not doing it right! — *Tara Spigner*

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BEST SWIMMING IN THE REDWOODS

French Trail, Redwood Regional Park

EBParks.org/parks/Redwood

Perhaps the most striking thing about hiking along French Trail which runs amid the towering redwoods and leafy-green ferns of Redwood Regional Park, is the fact that you're immersed in such beauty and tranquility while being just fifteen minutes from downtown Oakland. Walking French Trail in fact, feels as if you've been quickly transported to a different time and place — long ago, before Oakland became a metropolis. In short, it's the perfect afternoon get-away-from-it-all hike in the East Bay. You can access French Trail from either the northern section of the park at Skyline Gate parking area via West Ridge Trail or from the south at Redwood Gate parking area via the Stream Trail. If you want to get a workout, we recommend starting from Redwood Gate, because you'll hike uphill right away to French Trail, which then hugs the western ridge of the park amid the redwoods for about three miles. You can then loop back to the parking area by connecting with one of several trails that descend down to the valley and Stream Trail. Just be sure to keep an eye out for poison oak.

BEST YOUTH CONTACT SPORTS LEAGUE

Oakland Warthogs Rugby

OaklandWarthogsRFC.com

At a moment when many public schools are slashing sports programs, when childhood obesity is on the rise, when Oakland's gang violence shows no signs of slowing, and when college admission and completion rates for young men of color continue to lag, Oakland Warthogs Rugby is more than a sports league and more than a community service — it's a lifeline. The eight year-old nonprofit rugby program provides an antidote to crime and violence for its players, many of whom live in poverty and the vast majority of whom are black or Latino. Teaches discipline, teamwork, responsibility, and athleticism, and even provides food at practices, knowing that many of its participants don't have enough to eat at home. But founder Ryan Burke has made a serious commitment to not just athletics but academics. Everyone on the team is required to maintain a 2.0 average, and players are strongly encouraged to go to college. During the 2013 season, Warthog instituted a pre-practice tutoring program, paid for several players to visit various universities, and sent many of its players to college-admissions seminars. And it paid off. All of the Warthogs' graduating seniors will be headed to two- or four-year colleges in the fall, many with hefty scholarships; another alum will be representing the US in the 2013 Junior Rugby World Championships.

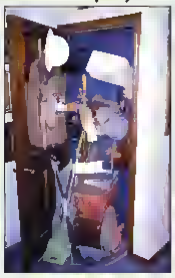
BEST SWIM LESSONS FOR KIDS

Downtown Berkeley YMCA

2001 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-848-6822, YMCA-cba.org/downtown-berkeley

The Downtown Berkeley YMCA swim program not only has young, energetic instructors whom your kids will love but it also has great facilities. The Y has three swimming pools, all of them indoor, and each is geared to your child's age and skill level. The warm shallow pool, which is heated to about 90 degrees, is perfect for introducing toddlers as young as eighteen months to swimming — with the help of their parents. Kids aged three to five also take group lessons in the shallow pool — without parents — until they're ready to move up to Grace's Pool, which is also kept at a warmer temperature than most pools. Finally, when kids get good enough, they take lessons in the adult lap pool. The Y is also less expensive than many other programs in the East Bay. Eight week sessions cost $67-$70 for members and each lesson is thirty to sixty minutes long, depending on skill level. The Y also offers financial aid. The program however, is extremely popular so don't procrastinate! Check out the agonyg dates online and then sign your kid up on the first date possible.

Got (too much) Stuff?

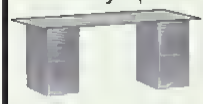


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Categories We Didn't Think Of

BEST ROWING CLUB
East Bay Rowing Club
Rowing on the Estuary at the break of dawn is an ecstatic experience. The coaches are fantastic, and there's great camaraderie amongst rowers with big differences in rowing experience and age. — *Eric Scherzer*

MAH JONGG CLASSES
Toby Salk in Berkeley
The best Mah Jongg instructor ever. — *Lois Kindesh*

DANCE STUDIO
Stuart-Anderson Dance Center
From toddlers to adults, a happy place to get first-rate dance instruction. — *Amanda Whitehead*

BEST WALKING TOURS
Localite Tours
— *Erika Testrophe Peterson*

BEST PLACE FOR A CROSS FIT TYPE WORKOUT

Urban Fitness

121 2nd St., Oakland, 510-834-0000

The first thing you might notice about Urban Fitness located in the Jack London district is its open layout and floor-to-ceiling windows, which create an airy, relaxing vibe. But the activities held within are anything but calming; in fact, the four of drills (which incorporate burpees, tractor tires, and, occasionally, a mallet) will leave you winded, sweaty, and incredibly sore the next day. That's the goal! Founder Noah Kinnear leads his three coaches by example by being friendly, competent and snarky enough to make you smile after you puke. Not a bad way to get in shape — if you can survive the first month.

BEST PLACE FOR DOG OFF THE LEASH

Briones Regional Park

2537 Reliez Valley Rd., Martinez, 888-327-2757, EBParks.org/Parks/Briones

On a map Briones Regional Park looks daunting — more than 6,000 acres and at least 5 entrances — but regardless of which trail you choose, you're guaranteed to find an easy hike with impressive views. While Briones is only a fifteen minute drive from Oakland, it feels like another world — especially in springtime, when the wildflowers are in bloom and the rolling hills are green. And dogs love it. They can mingle with the cows and other wildlife, swim in the shallow ponds, and roll around under the massive oak trees (although some areas require a leash). One word of warning, however: The horse and cow poop is everywhere, so the pup may need a bath when you get home. ●





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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

The Making of Thingamajigs

The Berkeley Art Museum's new artists-in-residence kick off their program by teaching kids how to make instruments out of found objects.

As it turns out, bamboo, tin cans, buckets, postage tape, pinecones, and soda straws are the stuff of great instruments. So say the folks behind Thingamajigs, an arts organization devoted to throwing to the wind everything you thought about music — starting with reimagining the tools used to make it in the first place.



Kids at a Thingan ajigs event.

The group first got started in 1997 while founders Edward Schocker and Dylan Bolles were studying at Mills College, whose contemporary music program is famous for churning out artists and composers keenly focused on thinking outside of the box. "The idea is based on getting as far as possible away from Europe and the heavy Western tradition," said Schocker. "California is about as far away as you can get from that vortex of breeding to the East. And Mills College is pretty central to that culture, here."

As part of that departure, and influenced by the East Bay's entrenched culture of makers and tinkerers, the duo started an annual music festival focused on creating music through found objects. "A lot of people at Mills at the time were experimenting with electronic music," Schocker said. "We were some of the few people who were working acoustically, but we wanted to challenge people's notions of that as well."

The festival was a success and continued to grow in popularity each year, and in 2006 Schocker and Bolles realized what started as a day long event could become a lot more. They created a performance group, set up an artist exchange, and added an educational program that brought them into Oakland public schools — many of which can't afford their own instruments — to teach kids how to build and play instruments made out of materials in their immediate environment. Five years ago they incorporated as a nonprofit.

And starting on July 21 the Thingamajigs Performance Group will be artists in residence at Berkeley Art Museum collaborating with poet Sasha Hom to investigate the ideas of "Migrations, Maps, and Labyrinths" in a month-long series of performances, talks, workshops, and open rehearsals. Join them this Sunday, July 21 at Berkeley Art Museum (2625 Bancroft Way) to play some "thingamajigs," build your own, and listen to the artists perform some of their own compositions.

The event will kick off the performance group's residency and Schocker says it's no coincidence that its program will start with something so focused on kids: it is significant that its particular mode of experimentation appeals as much to the art world as to small children. "When kids see someone playing an instrument built out of sticks or pinecones, they see it for what it is — their eyes open up and they want to learn how to play it themselves," Schocker said. "They don't think, 'Oh, that's weird or unusual.' It's that magic that's still very much there." Noon-2 p.m., $7. 510-642-0808 or BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu

— Aneen Ghavanshi

ATTRACTIONS

"Dinner a Movie & the Universe" A full-course dinner in the Skyline Room followed by Chabot's live-narrated Planetarium star show, Cosmos 3000. Afterwards, view the night sky through their telescopes (weather permitting). Fridays, Saturdays, $63 adults, $55 children. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Live Drawing Party Watch local artists create mythical works, which are available the auction after event. Third Friday of every month, 8 p.m., free. Actual Cafe, 2934 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville. 510-653-4368, ActualCafe.com.

Living Ship Day Celebrating the legacy of the Sea King Polaris, which played a key role in the recovery of the Apollo 11 astronauts. Sat., July 28, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. USS Hornet Museum, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. 510-521-8448. USS-Hornet.org.

Open Days Program returns Four Explore three private gardens in Berkeley and Oakland, open to the public for self-guided tours to benefit the Berkeley Community. Sun., July 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $5 per garden.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

Dirty Ass Wheelhaven Party: Underground Collusion East Bay outlaw bands, comic book artists, and graffiti muralists celebrate the eleventh party at Solano Bicycle Coop. Sat., July 28, 8 p.m.

Pedalpalooza 2013 The third annual celebration of the bicycle, a collaboration with the East Bay bike club, Cauldron, features pedal-powered food, a pedal-powered sound stage with live music, story slam, adults, kids' bike rodeo, bike safety training, and more. Sat., July 20, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. free. pedalpalooza.com. Jack London Square, 98 Broadway, Oakland.

Summer Picnic in the Park Enjoy mariachi glamour, craft stations, make walls, face painting, food, and more. Raising funds in addition of much-needed art and science programs for at-risk youth in the community. Sat., July 20, 12-8 p.m., free. Ashby Center of Art and Science, 5858 Shattuck Avenue, Oakland.

Sundays on Telegraph A street festival featuring local musicians and activists. Alternating Sundays in the street. Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through Aug. 25, free.

Third Thursday Piedmont Ave. Stroll Over twenty businesses along Piedmont Ave. will be open late and offer guided events for customers such as discounts, businesses items, live tastings, trunk shows by local Telegraph art exceptions, open mic, and more. Third Thursday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 29, free.

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

"Coping with Joint Pain" Bend Institute MD will outline exercises, **celebrate** to the joint pain problem. Thu., July 19, 3:30-5 p.m. free. Applying Lake Merritt, 1950 Madison St., Oakland. 510-980-3000, AgingSmart.com

Thriving And Maintaining Intimate Personal Relationships Discussing the three basic dynamics of relationships, and specific myths and challenges of the "Intimate-Personal Relationship." Fri., July 19, 7:30-9 p.m. $20 advance, $30 at the door. Plymouth United Church of Christ, 4701 Monte Vista Ave., Oakland. 510-654-5300, PlymouthOakland.org.

Fabulamania Workshop Emphasizing on "embodied sense of self" and utilizing the Fabulamania. An process through Movement" lessons as a primary tool. Sun., July 21, 10 a.m.-noon. $25. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

PICKS

Braidwash Film Festival

The Braidwash Film Festival started out as a DIY stunt — with Aerosol flyers, films way out in the freakiest reaches of the avant garde and everything projected onto a tarp in a West Oakland parking lot by David Zrzyski and a group of friends, *who The New York Times* once described as "cultural pranksters." But as have the TV ca coverage wasn't indicative of its ambitions, torn between the mid Nineteen and now the festival became an annual, reputable film festival, even beyond just the scale of indie film buffs. But don't let them know you think that. The drive-in, bake-in walk-in festival now exists in a storefront year over the next two week ends at NIMBY (6116 Ameloa St., Oakland), with more than thirty short films. In true DIY fashion bring a blanket and a chair and know that if you are one of the first one hundred patrons, you'll receive a free, specially made Braidwash Barf Bag. — *Aneen Ghorayshi*



Friday-Saturday, July 19-20 and Friday-Saturday July 26-27 Music and food at 8 p.m., movies at 9 p.m. $10 per night or $35 for a festival pass. 9 p.m.-8:30-ish at BraidwashArt.com

Pedalfest

Cold e tions of two-wheeled transportation are a dime a dozen in the bike-friendly East Bay but seems as if there are highly antiquated or as big, as the annual Pedalfest in Jack London Square (18 Broadway Oakland). With performances by the BMX Ni ni Team Oaklandish's ever-cute parade of small children c e declaimed bikes, Shrimp rices entertained rides and live music and 5 thirty-buy basked wooden windmans called the "Wish-keydemic" for more stunt action. Pedalfest takes bike enthusiasm to extreme. Food and drink will also be available, with a special Pedalfest pig roast in Lungstone and a New Belgium beer garden serving up the perfect brew for a sunny bike-filled day. — *AG*

Saturday July 20, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. free. PacificInterLink.com-short.com

Lawrenceliallscience.org.

Family academy. Sabot As overnight ice adventure with crafts and budgets. Bring your own camping supplies and blanket. Agers 5 and up. Overnight visit 10am the following day. $40 Saturday, 5 p.m. Cardinus through Aug. 10, 575-365. Saklland Zoo 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, x306 zoo.org

Free flatties. for Oakland, and Texas Free beehive classes Monday through Friday for kids, eighteen and under. Part of the City of Oakland's Summer Lunch Oakland, through Aug. 23. Free Food Institute, Cinema of Oakland. 685 14th St., free. fame. 510-893-6129. Ufdfoakland.org.

Journey to Starlight. Presenting the works Oakland of Pinkpanel Oakland students of years ago in the Lawrence Hall of Science Planetarium through Sept. 20. 3:45 p.m. 5:4 ages 8 and up. Admission, Hall of Science 1 Centennial Dr. Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Kid's Community Garden. Boys and girls are encouraged to develop problem-solving skills while learning their own root projects, using garden tools. They are also given chances to a wide range of woodworking, hand tools, safety is of craftsmanship. Each class session is a week-long. July 22-Aug. 15, $417. Alcmy Community Center 1245 Items Ave. Albany. 510-524-5283

Mac Scopes and rainbows, rainbows. The Children's Hands-on-scientist presents *Inside the Recovery, Room* and science's little mysteries. Sat. July 27, 11 a.m. free. Mrs. Fullbrow's 2904 Claremont Ave. Berkeley. 510-704-8729. Mrs.fullbrows.com

Memorial Concerts of the Playground. Part historic journey and part homage, adventure the film and the story of one of the Spaces and unrecognized feats in history and current research which may addressed additional questions through Jan. 5, 2014. $4 after museum admission. Lawrence Hall of Science 1 Centennial Dr. Oakland, 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Ashland Youth Collective. The Peaceful Drums Rumble dubbed as the leaderstrummer shares featuring children Oakland children ages 7 - 16 performing juggling, spinning, acrobatics, circus-e maintenance, body percussion, hip-hop played and performing and The July 18 1:30-2:30 p.m. free Oakland East High School, 4551 Broadway, Oakland

Reading is Delicious! Grover Cleveland Library is summer Reading Festival 2013 offers readers of all ages and Sacramento to read his fave and partici through Aug. 17 free @ ChabotLibrary, 6507 Inthmont Ave. @ Center, 510-597-5712. 360.lib.ca.us.

"Who first found the Fastest Boat?" shared and race your own fast three. Part of the Kids Explore Science Festival, July 24 12-2 p.m. free and museum Thousands Lawrence Hall of Science 1 Centennial Dr. Berkeley. 510-642-5132, LawrenceHallofScience.org.

LGBT

writeouts of those Inspire Group A drop-in peer group for lesbian women of color in Alameda County in safe and supportive environment. Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., free. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283, PacificCenter.org.

Try The Light Fantastic Beginners are welcome to learn west Argentinian in two easy, East and West Coast swing, disco, Bandits swing/hip-hop/jive, Lindy Lindy and fast dancers. Tuesdays, 7 7:30 p.m., $10-$20 sliding scale. Dance Source Oakland, 510-436-0600, info@DanceSourceOakland.org. Lydia Joseph 1 Grand Center, 3015 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-984-2716, Lydiaflies-Phenix.com.

PETS

Backyard Chicken Workshop Focusing on Norman goats a to shower care in an home barn. Sat., July 27, 1:24:30 p.m. free. Ploughshares Nursery 2314 Stone St., Berkeley. 510-845-1620. Ploughsharesnursery.com

City Of Oakland, Dog Habitants, Oakland. The Humane Society Saturday, 31 or what 2013 animals have been submitted. Entries are $15 per photo, and you can enter as many photos as you wish to like, posed by http://tinyurl.com/l9f9kgp for the official contest rules. Through 7/31/2013, at photos 1 budget@oakhumane.com, through Aug. 31.

Community Veterinary Clinic- San Antonio VIP PetCard offers standard/spayed preventative dogs and cats affordable wellness packages, pet microchipping, treatments, blood and fecal testing, deshed, skin flea and tick treatments de-worming, and vaccinations, convenient at every walk-in community clinic. Saturdays, 9:30-11 a.m. Continues through July 27. Free Pet Food Express, San Antonio 2015 Smith St., San Francisco. 510-452-1111, PetFoodExpress.com/stores/detail/San-Leandro

Feral Cat Foundation Adoptions With adoptions at Alameda for maintains, Saturdays, 12-3:30 p.m. Feral Cat Foundation, 2301 Fed Ferral Express, Alameda/Oakland, 6388 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-923-9580. FeralCatExpress.com.

Golden State Greyhound Weekends With Greyhounds available for adoption Thursday-Saturday at every month. 12-3 p.m. Gold enGreyhounds.com Pet Food Express, Alameda 2588 Blanding Ave. Alameda. 510-864-2222. PetFoodExpress.com

Dog Pet Adoptions With dogs and cats up for adoption from the Mars Foundation. Every other Saturday 12-4 p.m. Continues through 12-28. free Pet Food Express, Rockridge 5344 Broadway, Oakland, 510-654-2585. Petfoodexpress.com.

Montclair Village Pet Parade Teddy bears Kudos bear Pet Food and Walkie Road by Rangers Cat Pet Food Express Montclair Village Parade pet mayor through July 21, locations at PetFoodWalkieRoad.org, Pet-Mayor Sat., July 21, 1 p.m. etc.

Zachary's Pizza Mobile Adoption With dogs and cats available for adoption from the East Bay SPCA. Third Sunday of every month 12-3 p.m. free Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-655-6035, Zacharys.com.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Angel Light Metaphysical Fair Tarot, crystal angel tarot gives mini life, and psychic readings. Sun. July 21, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Angel Light Center 3047 Mitchell Ave. Unit King, Alameda. 510-865-1800 Angel.gallery.com.

Honoring the ghost If spiritually guided healing she session ender for Bandits of children and Sunday, July 21 and Saturday of every month, 10-11:30 a.m. $30-$20 Bella's Bistro 3 Tea Bandits 1203 Park St. Alameda. 510-865-2388. bellasbistro.com.

Drinking for Oakland, within West, to-dabbles in the Dutch Nyingma sickness will discuss the role of meditation in Buddhist Lineage, and how it pertains to training in wisdom and ethical ideals from June 21, 7 p.m. free. Berkeley Nyingma Institute 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley. 510-843-6812 Nyingma.org.

SALES, SWAPS, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

Jacksdam West Eid Flea stibbon With mid-Alameda museum jewelry beauty accessories, Rhonda Swanson and Rebecca Jones antique items. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. free. 510-599-1451 WestOaksBookstore.com. College of Alameda, 555 Atlantic Ave., Alameda, 510-522-7231, shoreline Peralta.edu.

Sat in the Lawn! The West Berkeley Bought Lawn and Market at more than 25 independent home improvement businesses, plus free DIY Advice Sat., July 27 9 a.m.-5 p.m. free **Red Mansion, Oakland Humble Judgment** Instant, Quilted, with Bargain the week of the Red Carpeted Soiled pieces! Continues Sat., July 20 8 a.m., 520 Alameda 525 to the door. Berkeley Fellowship of Humble Unitarians, 2924 Colby St. Berkeley. 510-845-4814, BFUU.org.

Armed ballroom. Project The annual ballroom expenditures of new photographs from the Town Hall Arts Highlighter nominees, items spaces the music host 5 pieces! Thu., July 18, 6-8 p.m. free the closed 5870 Shattuck Ave., Emeryville, 510-938-1300 thefillman.net.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Bay Area shared Lingerie show Raffles for every event to win lingerie item prizes. Fourth Tuesday of every at Bubble 8 p.m. 36. The Uptown, 1800 Telegraph Ave Oakland, 510-451-8200, UptownNightclub.com

Date's please Night Quiz Bubble Comedy tickets a weekly group pub quiz with prizes Mondays, 7:30 p.m. and Cake's Ale House 3301 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-3349 CakesAleHouse.com.

Night School: Wines Tasted please Piedmont Explore the museum at night, with food music and wine pairings for displayed, 21 and Thirsty every of every month, 7 11 p.m., $12. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd. Oakland, 510-638-7373 ChabotSpace.org.

Oakland, through A weekly yoga session accompanied by live music by local musicians Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m., $8-$15, 1Chicago.com/yoga.html. Sunset Grand Oak Chicago 2332 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Oakland.

Summer Humble Party Enjoy refreshments, hors d'oeuvres, and music in a Alameda-style atmosphere setting. Sun. July 21, 12-4 p.m. $25 advance, $30 at the door. Kaiser Center, Building Humble 300 Lakeside Dr. Piedmont KaiserCenterGarden.com

Bible and spaced Bandolyn, 7:30 p.m., and The Emerald Lounge, 1453 Webster St., Alameda. 510-864-1244 TheEmerald-Lounge.com.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS PARTICIPATORY

1st Annual Fratbolt City 4-Ball Championship Golfers will compete the Bandits Tree-day better ball format event to Lake Chabot Golf Course and Metropolitan Golf Links. Sat. July 20 11:11 a.m. Sun. July 21, 8:11 a.m. $100 for Oakland residents, $125 for non-residents. Lake Chabot Golf Course, 11450 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-352-2807 LakeChabotGolf.com.

Bay Area Recumbent Bike Club Series: Redwood Oakland, Peak Discover the Bandits area of rural hillside and redwood shaded paved greenery within the community. Ride adjustable adaptor-designed bicycles of Tandems, Trikes, Sun., July 21, 10 a.m. 5 p.m. $25.

Bicycle Thorp Play bicycle bingo and raise money for the San Pablo Avenue Complete Bike Streets/Pavements Association Third Thursday of every month 7-9 p.m. Adult Cafe, 5334 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville. 510-653-8486 AdultCafe.com.

Humble Jewel Kayak Adventures Paddling along Brooks Island's preserved mammals, and mist come outdoor to enjoy a industrial history, two-mile ocean around the island which is normally closed to Bandits Call 1-866-307-2757 to reserve. Kayaks and gear displayed, by reservation. Carnes & Kayak Sun. July 21 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $85.

Berkeley Walk Join garden volunteer and docent Sally Levinson as and guides you through the collection in search of shaped flies. Fourth Sunday of every month, 2-3 p.m. Continued through Oct. 27. free and garden Admission. University of California, Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755, Botanicalgarden.Berkeley.edu.

Oakland, shared the place Enjoy a free movie under the stars with neighbors at the Lindsay movie theatre Studio Each walk will begin at Oakland, type of dance followed by a closed-picture to practice what most learned. Fridays, Continues through Aug. 30. free. Jack London Square, 54 Washington St., Oakland.

More Listings Online
Find hundreds of up-to-date Arts listings at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Berkeley Rose Rowing Join the Berkeley Rowing Program Rivers for free introductory dragon Rowing classes Tuesday-Thursday, Saturday. Meets to 2400 Humble Square Dr., Berkeley. 510-981-7560 Berkeleyrowing.com.

El Cerrito Rotary Fair Lite The pastimes Carmen Scenic Rotary Fair Lite celebrate the lives of people who have played culture remember Rotary and past, and home nursery to fight fans against the disease Sat., July 27, 10 a.m. Castro Valley Park, 2560 Perkins Ave. El Cerrito. 510-215-4300 El Cerrito.org/Recreation/Fairs.html

Festival Cycles Like Tuesday Night Rides Weekly off-road mountain and rides followed by pizza and beverages. Bicycle lights required. For intermediate to advanced riders. Contact Owen@Eastbaymtbtrailbuilders.com or 510-478-3553 for more information. Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m., Lake Chabot Oakland Park, 17600 Lake Chabot Rd. Castro Valley. 510-247-2520, EBParks.org/Parks/Lake_Chabot.

Moonlight Hike Hike through the woodlands at night and enjoy moonlight on a moderate 4-5 mile hike. After the hike, stay and view the night sky through telescopes, as and the Lawrence Hall of Science Fri., July 19 8:30-9:30 p.m., $10. Humble Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd. Oakland. 510-336-7373 ChabotSpace.org.

Oakland on Two Wheels Discover the history of Oakland on two wheels during Old Industry tour and Art Deco through Alameda Oakland. The tour highlights local history and humble and community culture starting Jul. 21, Third Sunday of every month 11 a.m. Continues through Aug. 18 free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland, 510-318-8400, MuseumOCA.org.

Oakland Bandstand Run Showcasing the city's Oakland, skyline landmarks, waterfront, and high rises. The tour landmarks, historic downtown, dates, and sporting Oakland, was available to BadgerOnline.com, waterfront, Wednesdays, Saturdays, 10 11:30 a.m. free

"Parks turns Life Guitar" A Alameda event to help the City's piano maintenance staff plant trees and canvas up yards south of restrooms, Avenue and west of Telegraph Avenue Sat., July 20 9 a.m. Humble Island Community Center, Sat Public Park, 2700 Bay Farm Humble 510 865 5140 Q Berkeley CA this

We People a Community Yoga Group is welcome All levels encouraged to in Natural Oakland. 7:30 p.m. La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave Oakland, 510-849-2568 LaPena.org.

Automobile A Tarr-based game dominating elements of tennis, golf, and soccer. Volleyball. For all ages and predispositions. Played on the tennis courts. Tuesdays, 7-7:30 p.m., 53-55 p.m. Humble Square, 510-597-7219 AlamoCa.org, Tarrant View Field, 1898 Rudecon St. Albany

Ranger Station plane tissue Dense forest the rangers of the park, the history of Judson Muir to Lake Chabot Rowing it past manned organizations to Ranger with, who is carried for maintenance and either park conditions. Sat., July 27 10 a.m. 1 p.m. Ben Jonson Miller Park, 2500 Bancroft Ave. Oakland, 510-807-0609 OaklandNet.com/parksandrec/an.

Big Gardens the Big Join NB and Save The Bay for Ring Institute the Bay a improved Gardens, Sat., July 27 9 a.m.-noon. Free Oakland Latimer habitat. Sat. July 20 9 a.m. noon free Oakland Latimer Ring, Oakland, Institute, Oakland Bay and Sister Way Oakland. 510-562-1373 EBParks.org/Parks/MLK.

SoFlow on Adoption. This Humble up free, with game free Hotel played on Saturdays form Humble Waterway for the 8:30 a.m. years. New players, Oakland, Oakland, are Oakland. For more information, call 510-214-9500, ext. 3 Oakland Hotel.com/Parks/Parks/Default.aspx

Bandits Walk A Oakland Humble New Hills map in the neart of Oakland. Email Leah EastBayMantis.com for more Bandits Feb. July 18 6 p.m. free

Hike n Walk, Join n Businesses, Join Bandits, a distance nonprofit and explore to mobilize one million plastic women and girls to lead a walking revolution against Oakland, for three hours Oakland Trail Saturday of every month. 2 p.m. free Lake Merritt, 568 Bellevue Ave. Oakland, Oakland. 510-238-7275, OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Default.aspx

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SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Bandits Joint shared Twitter Days With dislike bat, trips and other cutlery dealings, Sundays, 11 Oakland Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way Berkeley. 510-638-7300 CoalitionGoodParks.com.

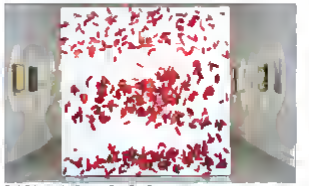
Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor: East Bay Express, 6114 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 10 days prior to the event date

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SATURDAY, JULY 20TH
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH
SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Ruth Tabancay's "Serrata Over San Francisco"

Under the Microscope

Berkeley artist Ruth Tabancay's new exhibit at Mercury 20 traverses the gap between micro and macro

Years after her time spent as a medical lab technician, Berkeley-based artist Ruth Tabancay is still seeing the world through a microscope. All those hours spent examining nature's abstract forms have left her with a psychological imprint of squiggles and globules that she can't seem to shake. To her fallen seedpods resemble viruses; lab bugs are magnified organisms made tactile. With her new solo show at Oakland's Mercury 20 Gallery, *Microcosmos*, Tabancay expresses those personal associations by inviting viewers in to get under the magnifying lens and into her memory space to experience those forms in textured tangibility, through sculpture, weaving, and installation.

The most eye-catching piece in the exhibit is "Serrata Over San Francisco," an assemblage of hand-felted pellets affixed across a wall with no apparent organization. The viewer is first grabbed by the pellets' vibrant spectrum of pinks and reds, and then drawn into their disarray. Just in an attempt to trace a pattern among them. The piece resembles a massive spilled box of hot cinnamon Tic Tacs. But the actual inspiration for the piece is more historically scientifically and personally grounded than that. It is Serratia marcescens, a lipid-rimmed that was controversially released over San Francisco in the US military in 1950 to test the population's vulnerability to germ warfare. Serratia marcescens was also one of the bacteria that Tabancay worked with frequently while in the lab. It stuck with her because of its unusual redness and interesting backstory. "I didn't initially start out to make a statement about the military or how an experiment was done without permission, but that was kind of the story, that came with it," Tabancay told me at the show's opening on July 5.

Rather than providing commentary on medical ethics, *Microcosmos* works more as a vehicle by which viewers can enter a world where scale is radically skewed. Many of the pieces are collections of small textured shapes that accumulate into large-scale patterns. With these Tabancay continually traverses the gap between micro and macro.

The textiles included in the show create the same effect. Tabancay constructed them by taking photos of fabrics with a scanning electron microscope and then weaving those images into cloth with a computerized Jacquard loom. The products are essentially mind-bending weavings of single stitches.

Although the shows is rather small (the pieces themselves are large and the statement they collectively make is decidedly scale-less. Ultimately, though, both science and scale are only symptomatic concepts of the more fascinating focus of the show — the personal associations made in the mind of someone who let the left and right halves of her brain intermingle. "I'm kind of mixing my past with microscopy and medical education, everything I ever knew," said Tabancay. "And everyone has that, they just don't know it."

Microcosmos runs through August 10 at Mercury 20 Gallery (475 29th St., Oakland) 510-701-4600 or MercuryTwenty.com

— Sarah Burke

ART GALLERIES

ACCI Gallery "Threads of Creativity" A group show featuring works by Lisa Stikeman, Sonya Philip, Carol Larson, Kaila Ludnick, Deb Shadid, Kevan Hanes, Shirley Bagdasar and Chris Jennings. Through July 31. Free. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527. ACCIGallery.com.

Alameda Free Library, Franceschi Reading Room A solo photo exhibit by Francesca Rocciaferri. Through July 27. 1550 Oak St., Alameda. 510-747-7777. CityofAlameda.CA.gov. Library

Au Coquelet Cafe, Rotunda Gals., Peter Gals., Cheerems & Poppins New paintings by Char Fisher. Through July 31. Free. 2500 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8433. AuCoquelet.com

Bancroft Library, "Valley of California Agriculture" An exhibition highlighting photographer Peter Stark's and geographer Paul Starrs' "California Agriculture" Archive in the context of Bancroft's historical holdings on agriculture in Cheerems. Opening reception Thursday, Apr. 25, 5-7pm. Through July 31. Free. UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Bancroft.Berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Art Center: BASC Works from 34 artists that investigate reflect upon evolve or are the result of risk. Through Aug. 25. Free. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6082. BerkeleyArt-Center.org

Berkeley Central Arts Passage: Print, Print, Print Highlighting the physical and social structures of the print medium. Featuring the works of fourteen artists. Through Aug. 30. Free. 2018 Center St., Berkeley.

Berkeley Rents Library, Central Branch: Journey to a Mysterious Truth" Photographs by Rebecca (Rebekah) Zamora-Gross, exploring the relationship between the self and its environment. Through Aug. 4. Free. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6260. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org

The Bone Room: Details of Interior Interiors: Portraits of the Natural World" New work by Elizabeth Rennebohm, a mixture of original pen and ink illustrations, pencil drawings and archival-quality prints highlighting the wonders of Nature. Through Sept. 3. 7 p.m. free. 1508 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-526-5201. BoneRoomPresents.com

Bridge Artspace: "Double Vision" Artwork by Bridget Vineyard and photography by Rachel Fisher. Through July 21. Free. 23 Maine Ave., Richmond. 510-236-3362. BridgeArtSpace.com

Chandra Cerrone Contemporary, Transcripts Sculptures and installations by Rachel Aurianne. Through July 25. free.

A Function of Lines: Wire installation pieces by artist Sabine Reichwald. Through July 25. free. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-290-7494. ChandraCerrone.com.

Classic Cars West: "At the End of Time, Where We Begin" A group show featuring photographer Christopher Cox, paired to Letters Written and multimedia artist Trost. 12 Nov. Daily free. 411 40th St., Oakland. 415-826-1135. ClassicCarsWest.com.

The Compound Gallery & Studios: "Made For You and Me" New artworks by Merith Webb. Through July 21 free. 1107 60th St., Oakland. 510-601-1702. TheCompoundGallery.com

Coleman Chapel & Art Center: 40 Years Tree Work By Dan Miller & William Scott" Presenting tree works by two of the Studio's acclaimed artists, Dan Miller and William Scott, in celebration of his 40th anniversary. Through July 25. free. 336 24th St., Oakland. 510-836-2346. CreativeGrowth.org.

David Brower Center: Almost Together Twenty local women sharing living in a world this privileges communication in a distance. Through Aug. 30. free. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-809-0500. BrowerCenter.org

FLAT: Flatulent Forms and Art Gallery, Glassic: Photographs by Thomas Lindahl Rebenson and jewelry and sculptures by Victoria Sweya. Through Aug. 27. 1081 Cedar St., Oakland. 510-535-1702. TheFlatCenter.com

Fresh Brew Center: Life/Real Watercolor Pastel Oakland, by the local artist, displayed in the Signature Gallery. Through Aug. 3 free. 1601 Pary St., Alameda. 510-523-8857. FandArtCenter.org

Institute of East Asian Studies: "The Sound of Weaving in Oman" A selection of Fukuko Fukuura's works in silk, paper, and other fibers dyed and woven, with that of some contemporary contributors and techniques and personal vision. Through

PICKS


Adam Cardello's "The Meaning of Life."

The Meaning of Life

The Wall Gallery is arguably the least accommodating space among the galleries located around Telegraph Avenue and 25th Street. In fact, it's actually more of a hallway. But don't let its narrowness deceive you into thinking that its shows are insignificant. For the month of July, The Wall is featuring the thought-provoking work of abstract painter Adam Cardello. *The Meaning of Life* is a collection of five large, square paintings that depict the cycle of life. According to Cardello's artist's statement, the series was a way for him to weave a narrative out of two life-changing events — the birth of his daughter and the death of his close friend. The resulting story is a dynamic manipulation of color, pattern, and geometry into effervescent pictorial metaphor. By overlapping thin layers of paint, Cardello achieves a bogginess that adds crucial depth to his dreamy pieces, drawing the viewer in. Actually, a space of transition like a hallway may be the perfect place to view *The Meaning of Life* because it relates the same message as the work. We're all just passing through. — *Sarah Burke*

Through July 30 at The Wall Gallery (473 25th St., Oakland). 510-282-0412 or TheWallGallery.Blogspot.com

Sept. 10. Free. 2223 Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-643-0536. BGS.berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Gallery, Berkeley City Through [illegible] Art Show. An art show [illegible] works from student artists of Berkeley City College. Through Aug. 18. Free. 2050 Center St. [illegible]

Johansson Projects. "[illegible] Artifice" Featuring photographs by [illegible] [illegible] Through July 18. Free. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery. "ARTIFACTS" New works by [illegible] Through July 27. Free. 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible]

Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden. "[illegible]" [illegible] by [illegible] Through Aug. 28. Free. 1223 Park St., Alameda. 510-865-2385. JuliesTea.com.

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] Through Aug. 31. Free. [illegible]

La Peña Cultural Center. "[illegible]" A photo exhibit by artist [illegible] Through July 20. Free. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

[illegible] [illegible] Through Aug. 3. Free. 2997 [illegible] St., Berkeley. [illegible]

[illegible]. "[illegible]" New works by East Bay street artist [illegible] Through July 31. Free. "The Sacred Language to [illegible]" [illegible] Through July 28. Free. 360 3rd St., Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery. "A California Portrait" [illegible] Through Aug. 10. Free. [illegible]

Mercury 20 Gallery. "[illegible]" New works by artist Kathleen King, [illegible] Opening reception: Saturday, July 20, 4-8pm. Through Aug. 10. Free. "[illegible] Abstraction" [illegible] Through Aug. 10. Free. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7780. Mercury20.com.

[illegible] Art [illegible]. "[illegible]" [illegible] Opening reception: Saturday, July 20, 12:30-3pm. July 19-Sept. 6. Free. "A Brief History Of [illegible]" [illegible] Opening reception: Saturday, July 20, 12:30-3pm. July 19-Sept. 6. Free. "You're The Prose" [illegible] Opening reception: Saturday, July 20, 12:30-3pm. July 19-Sept. 6. Free. [illegible] Alameda. [illegible]

Oak [illegible]. [illegible] Through Aug. 5. Free. [illegible] Oakland. [illegible]

Oakland Art Murmur. [illegible] First Friday of every month. 6-9 p.m. Free. [illegible] Oakland. [illegible]

Point Richmond. [illegible] Third Thursday of every month. 6-9 p.m. [illegible] Richmond.

popUp Gallery. "popUp Gallery Anniversary Exhibit" [illegible] Through Aug. 8. Free. 1359 Park St., Alameda. [illegible]

Pro Arts Gallery. "[illegible]" A new series of works by Phil McGoughy. Through Sept. 20. Free. "[illegible]" [illegible] Through Aug. 8. Free. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361. ProArtsGallery.org.

Richmond Art Center. [illegible] Through Aug. 22. Free. "[illegible]" [illegible] Through Aug. 22. Free. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772. TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

Rise Above Print Shop + Gallery. "High School" [illegible] Through July 31. Free. [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery. "[illegible]" A solo show by [illegible] Through Aug. 3. Free. 4208 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

SLATE contemporary. "SLATE [illegible]" [illegible] Through Aug. 31. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-375-9858. [illegible]

Studio Quercus. "Space" Over 30 emerging [illegible] Through Aug. 17. Free. 385 26th St., Oakland. 510-452-4670. StudioQuercus.com.

[illegible] + Gallery. "What Are I?" A selection of new paintings and sculpture by [illegible] Through July 20. Free. "[illegible]" [illegible] Through July 20. Free. 560 2nd St., Oakland. [illegible]

Tayeck Contemporary. "Traces and Accumulations" A group exhibition featuring [illegible] Through Aug. 31. Free. 655 Cabral Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

Uptown [illegible], Saturday [illegible] [illegible] Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. 19th St. at Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

The Wall Gallery. "The Meaning of Life" A new painting series by Adam Cardello. Through July 30. Free. 473 25th St., Oakland. 510-282-0412. TheWallGallery.[illegible]

MUSEUMS

Alameda Museum. "[illegible]" [illegible] Through July 28. 2324 Alameda Ave., Alameda. [illegible] AlamedaMuseum.org.

BAM/PFA. "[illegible]" A new interactive [illegible] Through Dec. 31. Free with museum admission. "[illegible]: The Figure in the Collection" [illegible] Through Aug. 25. "[illegible]" [illegible] Through Sept. 1. "[illegible]" [illegible] Through Apr. 13, 2014. [illegible] Through Aug. 25. 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Contemporary Jewish Museum. "[illegible]" [illegible] Through Sept. 8. "[illegible]" [illegible] Through Sept. 8. "Beyond Belief" Exploring the spiritual dimensions of modern art, especially as seen through the lens of Jewish theological concerns. Through Oct. 21. "StoryCorps StoryBooth" Visit and interview important people in their lives in the StoryBooth recording studio. Afterwards, participants receive a copy of their story, and with their permission, a copy is added to the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress. Through Oct. 31. 736 Mission St., San Francisco. 415-655-7800.

de Young Museum. "[illegible]" Over 130 paintings and drawings [illegible] [illegible] "The Eye of the [illegible]: Photographs by Rose Mandel" [illegible] Through Oct. 13. "[illegible]" [illegible] Through Sept. 15. "[illegible]" [illegible] Through Aug. 4. "Friday Nights at the de Young" [illegible] Through Nov. 29. 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., San Francisco. 415-750-3600. DeYoungMuseum.org.

Exploratorium. [illegible] Daily. [illegible] San Francisco. [illegible]

Institute of [illegible] Art. "[illegible]" An ongoing group show. Daily. 2000 Chapman St., [illegible] [illegible]

Lawrence Hall of Science. "Design Quest" Set out on a quest to build the future. Come up with ideas, build prototypes, and see if your [illegible] the challenge. Through Sept. 2. Free with museum admission. Science on a Sphere [illegible] permanent exhibit [illegible] Daily. 10-5. $12. 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5133. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Legion of Honor. "[illegible]" [illegible] Through Oct. 13. 34th Ave. and Clement St., San Francisco. 415-750-3600. LegionofHonor.org.

[illegible]. "[illegible]" [illegible] Through Sept. 1. Free. "[illegible] and the [illegible] 1900-1977" [illegible] Through Sept. 1. Free. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164. [illegible]

More Listings Online
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Oakland Museum of California. "Hard Times in the OC" [illegible] Through Apr. 21. Free with museum admission. "[illegible]: Masterpieces of California Landscape" Works by Ansel Adams, [illegible] David Hockney, [illegible] Arthur Mathews, Richard Misrach [illegible] Through Aug. 11. 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-318-8400. MuseumCA.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum. "[illegible]" With 15 [illegible] and 20 widebodies from Larry Zartarian's collection, plus games representing early pinball [illegible] Daily. $15, under 12 $7.50. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-769-1349. PacificPinball.org.

Peralta [illegible] Historical Park. "What I [illegible], I Keep: [illegible]" This visual and audio installation is based on African American stories of modern-day Oakland, derived from the personal experiences of local [illegible] Wednesdays-Saturdays. 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-532-9142. PeraltaHacienda.org. ●


Richard Misrach's "Oakland Fire #44-91 (Sold Hiller Drive and Charing Cross Road)," on view at the Oakland Museum of California.

THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

The Awkward Sex Show directed
Recording Hosted by comic Jenna Carey Callahan and Jennifer Cermsky, hear true personal sex/love/dating stories. Show the theme "queer Theory." Wed July 24 7:30–9 p.m. free Whole Foods Mkt 0581 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-652-3827 wh.celloveal.com.

Chuck Nolan Comedy Night A weekly friendly show hosted by Chuck Nolan and Mary Lindsay. 8 p.m. $10. MLK Cafe, 2640 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-450-0800.

The Last Laugh. With Samson Kolehmainen and various comics. Fridays, Saturdays, 10:30 p.m. $8-$10. The Last Laugh open Mic Night, 2135 Broadway, Oakland. 915-267-1041 thelaughlab.com

Capoeira Comedy Mike Spiegelman hosts, directed a bath shower & by Area comedians. Tuesdays @ 20-30 p.m., free. The Layover, 1511 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-3111 theamblingloverooom.

Open Mic Comedy A monthly open mic for both veteran and up-and-coming comedians. Sundays, 8 p.m., one-drink minimum. Continental Club, 3964 12th St., Oakland. 510-653-8813 Continental@Comedy.com

Starship Comedy Open mic comedy night hosted by DJ Berkeman. 8:30–11:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. free. Shark Club, 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-8174. SharkClubOakland.com.

Sunday Night Comedy and Poetry Hosted by Leffoy Stanks & Jr. Ages 21 and up. Sundays, 9 p.m. GalileyPresidium, 3001 Island Paradise Club 1438 Webb a S., Hampton, 510-815-2225 islandlifeclubOakland.com.

Thurs There Comedy Show With featured comed ans Brennan Hault and guests. Third Friday of every month, 8 p.m. Spice Monkey Cafe, 1028 Webster St., Oakland. 510-764-0119 SpiceMonkeyCafe.com.

The Unbold Story With weekly improv namely Additional show provides event at 8 p.m. Saturdays, 8 p.m. $10–$12. Fan Theater, 2335 Broadway, Oakland, 415-291-1681, FanTheater.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Show Dancers The vibrant Dances of Adapt Mo Ale Tonu or "Most Forever" will give a taste of New Zealand with traditional dances and songs. Thu., July 18, 1 p.m. free. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 510-526-1512, CCCLib.org

LIVE VARIETY

Art Soul Bazaar A monthly showcase of music, spoken word and a local pop-up indie event. Third Sunday of every month, 3–7 p.m. free. ArtSoulFoundation.org, Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-0862, StarryPlough.com.

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more theatrical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Santa Cat Your Sax Wondminister Summer Mummolo we performed advance in Natrow Wondminster Amphitheater in Jeonson Hotel Park. Come early and enjoy a picnic with your family. Through July 21. 8 p.m. Wondminster Amphitheater, 2300 Joaquin Miller Rd., Oakland. 510-638-0481, Woodminster.com.

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts Summer Wombie Centre Presentations I allows the culmination of a two-week student workshop with each child in performances at Ohlone theater and music. Tue. July 23, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Wed. July 24 & 30–8:30 p.m. Thu. July 25 & 30–8:30 p.m., free. East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, 1539 18th St., Richmond. 510-234-5624 EastBayCenter.org.

Fortunate Daughter Thao P. Nguyen explores what it's like to be torn between her two homes. Her traditional Vietnamese family and the queer community where she floated have to hide her homosexuality. Thursdays–Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 3. $20–$25. LaVal's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-464-4188.

A Maze The story interweaves a teenage girl recreating calamity after eight years held captive in a subbasin room and, a pair of each stars re-inventing themselves after a life using, and a self-taught artist gaining a call. Continuing for the 15,000-page comic book Thursdays–Sundays. Continues through Aug. 4. $15–$30. The Ruth Thread 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. **Pick: Perfect** Local playwright Martin Edwards can namely about the dark, cabbage said of the ad Sundays. Sundays, 5 p.m. Thursdays–Saturdays 8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 18. $20. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Haviland Ave., Berkeley. BerkeleyCityClub.com

Romeo & Juliet Cal Shakes' Amanda Artistic Director Shana Cooper's take on the Shakespearean classic. Through July 28. $20–$52. Bruns Amphitheater 100 California Shakespeare Theater

PICKS

This Is How It Goes

In *This Is How It Goes* Neil LaBute digs right into the topic of modern-day American racism. The playwright has been labeled a provocateur and misanthrope for his past works, and *This Is How It Goes* is certainly no exception the play has its fair share of shocking content and rotten characters. Set somewhere in the middle of the country, it features a black man-white woman married couple, whose ill-founded relationship is easily shaken when one of the woman's old classmates reappears with his high school crush in her still intact. This unraveler tells the story from a patently unreliable perspective, letting his own racist tendencies color the



David Allen

action at hand — perhaps LaBute pulls the rug from under the audience repeatedly as that of times it seems his main intention is to teach the audience a lesson about their own assumptions. Amidst all this muckling, though, is a startling more lasting an all too-real portrayal of a middle-class American as a specimen as he is bigoted. — Alex Bigman

Through July 28 at Aurora Theatre Company (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). $30–$50. 510-843-4822 or AuroraTheatre.org

Way Sinbis
Son of Kincaid Josh Kornbluth is a recent comedy directed by David Ravens and presented by the Shotgun Players. Wednesdays–Sundays. Continues through Aug. 4. 7 p.m. $35. Ashby Stage 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. ShotgunPlayers.org.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street Presented by Youth Musical Theater Company. Thu., July 18, 7 p.m. Fri., July 19, 1 p.m. Sat., July 20, 1 p.m. Sun., July 21, 2 p.m. $20; students $13. Mahonga Cinquedeoni Center for the Arts, 1428 Alice St. directed 918-238-7319. MCCArtscenter.com.

This Is How It Goes Closing Aurora's 21st season is the Bay Area premiere of Neil LaBute's dark, edgy comic drama directed by Aurora Theatre Company Artistic Director Tom Ross. Through July 21. $32–$57. Aurora Theatre 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822 AuroraTheatre.org.

Underneath the Lintel A mystery begins when a Dutch librarian embarks on a worldwide trip to find. Show is $13 year overdue book. Starring Jul. 20 Saturdays, Sundays, 3 p.m. Matinees, Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Remixed through Aug. 4. $15–$18 advance pay what you can at the Ashby Oak Theatre 1301 directed Ave., Berkeley.

Mo Wit A modern retelling of L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, directed by Kimberly Bradley. Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays. Continues through Aug. 25. $17–$38. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

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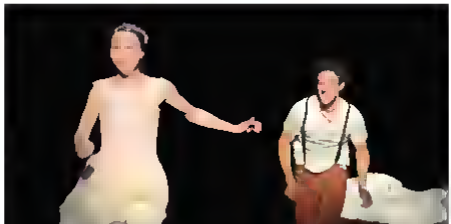
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THEATER REVIEW

FINALLY, A ROMEO AND JULIET WITH PASSION

Director Shana Cooper and a strong cast redeem the oft-butchered love story with a raw, physical production.

By Alex Bigman



Cal Shakes' *Romeo and Juliet* is truly disarming. Kevin Berne

Romeo and Juliet is easily the most abused of Shakespeare's works and not just at the hands of high-school drama instructors. Professional companies, too, are prone to creating pueraile, pass onless recitations of the familiar verse. So many effete Romeos ("Oui soft!" — sigh) and dainty Juliets (with outstretched palm and a closed mouth kiss) routinely mash the greatest love story of all time into grim sentimental mush that in the age of *Twilight* would hardly send a tween heart aflutter.

What *Romeo and Juliet* needs is a really magnetic Romeo and a Juliet who, at the tender age of thirteen, is so reeling with desire that she literally stabs herself to death in order to achieve her forbidden union. Puritanical standards be damned. Without such an animated Juliet, the whole story makes no sense. Cal Shakes' production, under the direction of Shana Cooper, delivers admirably in this regard, and the result is at times truly disarming.

The production is intelligently modern. The text remains more or less unchanged, but the actors, living in techno interiors and dressed in urbane attire (including skinny pants, trousers, and horn-rimmed glasses deep in the Elizabethan delivery fog), are that is readily comprehensible to a contemporary audience. The stage is empty but for a few props, letting the Orinda hills stand backdrop. Sling spider webs and darting bats occasionally glitter through the spotlights.

It is also an extremely physical play, delightfully messy at times. The first act contains a number of dance sequences and no sex allusion is left unemphasized (there are way more than you might think, and the actors employ everything from masturbatory wrist gestures to outright groping to make them clear as day). Joseph J. Parks gives a particularly memorable performance as ribald lapse cannon Mercutio. He shags a beer before crashing a Capulet party, moons the audience next, suavely and carries on in many an profane embrace with friend Benvolio (played by a woman, Arwen Anderson) — not an affection with bass in this text is my knowledge but as good a means as any to build the atmosphere of one particularly hormonal teen summer in Verona.

Show Details

Romeo and Juliet runs through July 28 at Knight Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda) $20-$53. 510-548-9666 or CalShakes.org

Dan Clegg plays Romeo exactly right: as a red-blooded teenager. Sporting a slightly shaggy haircut, white t-shirt, and suspenders, he seems less 16th-century Italian nobility than present day Britpop icon. What he lacks in classical beauty he well makes up for in sex appeal and a goofy boyish charm. The many Romeos (and even Shakespeare's marvelous verse) like they came up with it themselves, which is ridiculous — no lovestruck kid was ever so articulate — and wind up rendering the character a glib aesthete in consequence. Clegg, on the other hand, dashes through his harder lines as if some external force is summoning the words from him. To this he yields in proper teenage form, without a second's hesitation.

Opposite Juliet is played by Rebekah Brockman, who only just finished wowing San Francisco audiences as Thomasina in Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia*. Possessing a gymnast's physique that renders him an almost unsettlingly convincing thirteen-year-old, the actress is a compact thunderbolt of love-bitten teen energy. None of that wilting "Romeo, Romeo" business. Brockman surges through her speech like a woman on a mission. Her lively, shining moments, however, occur during the play's suddenly very dark second act, in which her Juliet is banished for murder and she finds herself cornered by her family into an engagement to another man. She becomes downright bestial at times, grunting and flailing about the stage like a caged animal before becoming mad with resolve to either reclaim her lover or die. It's a subsequent more alarming than it often seems, as this character contemplates awakening in her family's tomb after her temporary poison wears off and how such a gruesome circumstance could well drive her mad enough to "bath in reeking great kinsmen's bones" as with a club, dashing my desperate brains." When Brockman says it, her wide eyes fixed on a distant point in space, his character momentarily comes to be an impulsive girl and rises to the ranks of Hamlet, Lear and all of Shakespeare's greatest cruzes.

After so many rote, childish productions, it's easy to forget how extreme a play *Romeo and Juliet* is: extreme claims in Act 1 — Romeo and Juliet's first kiss in this production sent a chill down my spine — and extreme despair in Act 2. It's by no means the thinnest of Shakespeare's plots, and its characters are far from the playwright's most complex, but good productions such as this one are a reminder of how stirring and electrifying a story it can be. ●

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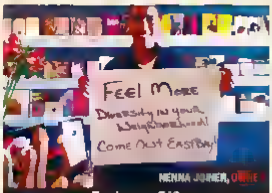
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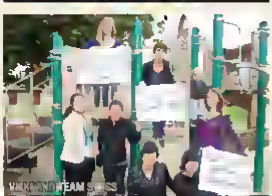
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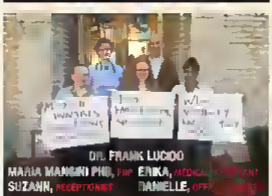
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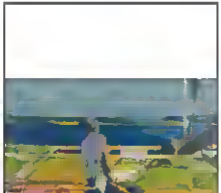
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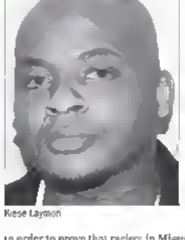
Exhibition Beckenkorn, Figure on a Porch, 1959, Oil on canvas, Crocker Museum of California, gift of the Anonymous Donor Program of the American Federation of the Arts. © 2013 The Richard Diebenkorn Foundation

LECTURES&LIT

Race in America, With Time Machines

Kiese Laymon's whimsical new novel *Long Division* paints a picture of America's most contemporary race issues.

Kiese Laymon's new novel *Leong Division* in the roughly with which it incorporates contemporary pop-culture obsessions like twerking, hashtags (in Harlem Shake and Kanye West's anthurets. Yet Laymon's knack for online virality are countered by heavy references to historic events — the biggest of which Hurricane Katrina pulls back the curtain on America's still grave race problem.



Kiese Laymon

The book begins with its sassy, confident fourteen-year-old narrator Citeyen "City" Coldson, who's been selected to compete in Mississippi's 2013 "Can You Use That Word in a Sentence" national finals. But when City discovers a time-competition rigged to produce a non-white winner in order to prove that racism in Mississippi is a thing of the past, he blindly throws his verbal panache behind another goal: taking down the competition, and its contestants, in an anthurst on live television. President Obama can see how they do us down here," you see?" a now-humiliated City shouts to the nation. The boy knows that he has already become fodder for millions of clicks on YouTube. America is watching, but from a safe distance.

This post-Katrina national spotlight on the South is a theme that Laymon — a Mississippi native returns to repeatedly in his book. "I was working up in New York the day the storm hit," but when I went home that winter, it was literally the land that time forgot," said Laymon, who will be reading from the book on Thursday, July 18 at Mrs Dalloway's (2904 College Ave., Berkeley). "And this is the rural South, which is already the land that time forgot."

Forgetting is a theme woven seamlessly throughout *Long Division*. In a sometimes-confusing bit of meta-fiction, City is given a book by his high school principal that's also called *Long Division*, and features a boy named City as its central character — albeit one who can time travel from the year 1985. The parallel narrative allows Laymon to switch back and forth between the Sixties and the present, highlighting both the Civil Rights Movement and the many ways in which today's youth — represented by City — sometimes struggle to identify with it.

The inclusion of something as fantastical as time travel in a book that's primarily about race highlights one of the most singular things about Laymon's writing: his ability to contextualize tragedy with humor. In this way *Long Division* often feels similar to Jonathan Safran Foer's *Everything Is Illuminated*, which combines the tragedy of the Holocaust with nicely comical counterpoint; storytime. You can laugh and cry on the same page — a sometimes-strange sensation that allows Laymon to succeed in his main goal: to keep us from forgetting. 7:30 p.m., free. 510-704-8222 or MrsDalloways.com

— Aaron Choraysh

LECTURES

Bee Explorers Explore the important role of nature bees with a UC Botanical Garden docent. Sundays, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Continues through July 28. Free with garden admission. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755, BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu

Civil Liberties and Security in an Age of Terrorism Discussing the recent threat-agreements in government spying. Thu., July 18, 6:30 p.m. $15. Independent Institute Conference Center, 100 Swan Way, Oakland. 510-632-1366

Cycles of Land Use An ongoing lecture on the geology, mythology, topography, botany, ecology, culture, history and resource management of the local landscape. Fridays. Continues through July 26. $164. Merritt College, 12500 Berkeley Dr., Oakland. 510-531-4911, Merritt.edu

Historical Significance of Kush A fundraiser to support the classical African civilizations of ancient Kush and Nubia, which are in jeopardy of being permanently flooded by a series of dams along the Nile River. Sat., July 21, 3:30–8:30 p.m. $10. Flaxseed East Bay Church of Religious Science, 4330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. (510) 420-1803, theqhouseScience.org

Nobel Laureates Speak on the Water Crisis With speeches given by Nobel Laureate Charles H. Townes, Nobel Laureate Steven Chu, Nobel Laureate Douglas Osheroff. Tony Prato (J.D. Berkeley, MCP, Dept. Christopher Edley (J.D. Berkeley Law, and Rabbi Joel Kushkuliat Shoshi (Charles H. Townes Professor). In Room 10. Refreshments will be served. Sat., July 20, 10:30–1 p.m. Wurster Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley

Seeking our New Great Heritage Dr. Greg Brenna will present "the buildings, art and as a of the social systems that Americans created during the New Deal, and are now using to promote them. Wed., July 24, 1:30 p.m. Free North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-5180.

The Search for Habitable Worlds An evening dialogue with the NASA Kepler Mission leaders. Thu., July 18, 7:30 p.m. Free. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-8453, lawrence.berkeley.edu

"Snacking, Swiping, and Cannibalizing: The Feeding Habits of Black Holes" This free public talk is presented as part of the monthly Science Cafe Lecture Series. 7 p.m. room 1415. Sat., July 20, 11 a.m. room free. Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Berkeley.edu.

"South Georgia and the Falklands" The Golden Gate Audubon Society presents a talk by Bob Lewis, chair of the GGAS Adult Education Committee and longtime member GGAS Interpreter and field trip leader. Thu., July 18, 7:30 p.m. Montclair Community Center, 1911 Ute Avenida, Berkeley. 510-531-3666.

LITERARY EVENTS

Angela Hume and Frances Richard With readings by the two poets. Sun., July 21, 3–4:30 p.m. Free. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-3620, BerkeleyPressBooks.com

Art Idiot Writers Society Writer Cori Mosby leads a weekly writing and performance workshop designed to generate new material and nurture a sustainable community of Bay Area writers. Mondays, 7:30 p.m. Cost: Create your own. 2708 Dwight Underwriter, #77 2501 St., Oakland. 510-384-3146, 2708DwightUnderwriter.com

Better a Writers Collective Hosted by Vince Storh and Pre-write exercises and workshop using. Tuesdays, 7:0 p.m. Frank Bette Center, 1091 Pine St., Alameda. 510-523-0812 FranklateCenter.org

Community Poets Workshop The goal of this workshop, led by poet Sara Weiss, is to assemble a small group of passion writers who are interested in working together to share and advance their craft, as well as to learn how to get their poetry out into the world. Starting Jul 23 Tuesdays, 7:30–9:30 p.m. Continues through Aug. 20. $250. University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-548-0580, UniversityPressBooks.

PICKS

Sahar Delijani

Lived in an in northwest of Iran's cap tal, Evin Prison gained notoriety after the country's revolution in 1979 for secretly housing (and often murdering) those who were considered political and intellectual opponents of the new regime. It was there that Sahar Delijani was born. In 1983, as the child of two jailed dissidents. Thirteen years later Delijani and her parents fled to Northern California six years after that Delijani started studying comparative literature at UC Berkeley. Now she's publishing her first novel, *Children of the Jacaranda Tree* which starts, appropriately enough, with a baby born in the infamous political prison. Join Delijani at A Great Good Place for Books (6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland) as she reads from the book, which threads together the stories of three families living in a post-revolutionary country that's coming to terms with its repressive new democracy. — *Aseem Ghoneyghi*

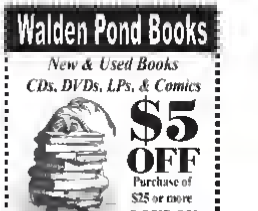
Friday, July 19, 7 p.m., free. agoodplaceforbooks.com/GreatGood-Piano.tmt#lowerd.mm

Nobel Laureates Speak on the Water Crisis

Originally meant to confront environmental disasters facing the world in the global warming crisis. If you don't know much about the particulars, but are thinking to know more (so to speak), a panel on Saturday, at 11 a.m. in Dana Hall on the UC Berkeley campus will feature its panel's experts in the field — including Dr. Steven Chu, former US Secretary of Energy and two other Nobel Laureates — to talk about our water sources, why they're in peril, and what we can do to help. (Also check out our recent two-part series, "Tunnel Vision," about the challenges facing the California Delta and its rivers. This years nearly with a viewing of *Chinatown*.) And [illegible] Refreshments will be served. — *A.G*

Saturday, July 20, 1:30–5 p.m. free. events.berkeley.edu





cont

C.W. Nevius Discussing her new book of historical fiction, *The Queen's War*. Thu. July 18 7 p.m. free Books Inc. Berkeley 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-1171 BooksInc.net/Berkeley

Rosie Rescuer Reading from her new memoir *Dog Spinning*. Mon. July 22, 7 p.m. free Books, Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley. 510-525-7717 BooksInc.net/Berkeley

Steve Berman Ten authors and guest readers will be celebrating the launch of his newest anthology collection, *Alien Times* Rivers Wed. July 24 7:30 p.m. free Pegasus Books Downtown, 1040 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley & Oakland. 510-649-1320 PegasusBooks.com

Free Book Exchange Give and get free books at Pegasus Saturdays, Sundays 11 a.m. 6 p.m. free 510-704-2901 BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com Bay Area Free Book Exchange. 1629 El Camino Real Redwood City 650-365-1266. BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com

Berman Boals Book Discussion Group Call Bibliotherapy for monthly book titles. Fourth Tuesday of every month 6:30-8:30 p.m. free Oakland Public Library, Golden Gate Branch 5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510 581-5025 OaklandPublibrary.org.

Handmade Cookies Workshop Tell Love creator Rowena Salcedo and professor at California College of the Arts, talks about equipment, materials, and Asmenda in a series of workshops on cooking handmade cookies and cakes! Wed. July 24 4-5:30 p.m. Wed. July 31 4-5:30 p.m. Fri. Aug. 2 4-5:30 p.m. free Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch 2090 Kittredge St., Berke ey 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublibrary.org.

Hella Book and Speakeasy 5 Thursdays Open mic poetry to kweet at 8:30 p.m. by dancing poetry rap band live 90s, bad mere Thursdays 1:30 p.m., donation accepted Ekebleke Cultura Center 2372 International Blvd. Oakland 510 533-6089 EskuelaKaKalaShare.com.

Katie Williams Reading from her new novel *Absent* Wed. July 24 7 p.m. free Books Inc. Berkeley 1760 Fourth St. Berkeley 510-525-7717 Booksinc.net/Berkeley

Steve Lyman Reads from his Steve book *Long Division* Thu., July 18, 7:30 p.m., free Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave. Berkeley 510-704-0222 Mrsdalloways.com

Maria Dante Traveling Show Readings for the Maria Poetry Center's East Bay Satirist Traveling Show, co-hosted by book Black editor of the *Maria Poetry Review Anthology*. Thu. July 18, 7:30 p.m. free Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley 510-849-2087 MoesBooks.com

Meg Waite Clayton Reading from the newly out *The Wednesday Daughters*, the sequel to the #1 Times best-selling novel *The Wednesday Sisters*. Thu. July 18 7 p.m. free A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave. Oakland. 510-339-3220. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

Poetry Express Readings A weekly poetry venue and open mic Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Peet's Coffee Corner 2142 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley. 510-644-3911

Read and Share Book Club A monthly book group for adults to discuss any book they please. Meetings held in the fourth floor library. Third floor room Fourth Tuesday of every month 3-4 p.m. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St. Berkeley, 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublibrary.org.

Sahar Delijani Reading from her debut novel, *Children of the Jacaranda Tree*. Fri. July 19 7 p.m. free A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave. Oakland. 510-339-3220 GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

Socialistic Hour Reading from her book, *Marx's Poor*. Thu. July 18 7-7:30 p.m. free University Press Books, 2430 Bancroft Way Berkeley 510-548-3583 UniversityPressBooks.com

Susan Choi Reading from her newest novel *My Education*. Wed. July 24 7 p.m. free A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave. Oakland, 510-339-3220. GreatGoodPlace.IndieBound.com.

Tanuka Bartsky Celebrates the release of her new novel *Another Space*. Fri. July 19 6-8:30 p.m. free. Pickle, 2295 Broadway Oakland. 510-834-3000.

Writer Readings Third Thursday of every month 6 p.m. Arbor Cafe, 4219 Telegraph Ave. Oakland

PUBLIC INTEREST

Free Commuter training Commuter training for all skill levels. Saturdays, 10 a.m.–noon Continues through July 27 free. Eastmont Public Library, Eastmont Branch, 3660 Fruitvale Ave. Oakland. 510-446-1644. OaklandLibrary.org.

Living Liberally: Drinking Liberally A potluck discussion group First and third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., free Lake's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway Oakland 510-451-4677 LakesOak.tad.com

Inner Troubled Wizard A documentary and discussion about the way California has been mining for its water Thu. July 18, 7 p.m. 15-17 Suggested donation Berkeley Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-848-4924. Free Lunch

"Selling Off America's Post Offices" How a bout the battle to keep our historic post offices public. Wed., July 24 1:30 p.m. free North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave. Berkeley. 510-981 5099

Toastmasters International @ UC Berkeley Free and friendly networking welcomes people of all experience levels who are interested in becoming more confident and effective public speakers. Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. free Barrows Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley

Toastmasters International @ Warehouse 416 Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of meeting locations. Tuesdays, 1 a.m. free, Warehouse 416, 416 25th St. Oakland, 510-922 3853, Warehouse-416.com

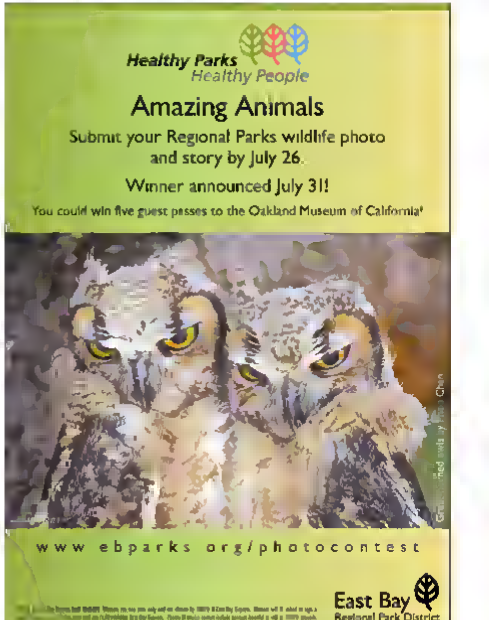
SPOKEN WORD

The Berkeley Slam With spoken-word and an improvisational brand of it moment by Berkeley Comedy Improv. 1 p.m. Sundays, Seven, and Kathryn Lucas' Crash prizes month week Wednesdays, 8 p.m. at Slippery Peach, 5346 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley, 510-841-2982 SlipperyPeach-Pub.com.

The Berkeley Slam A weekly open mic for up-and-coming spoken word artists, poets, and comedians. Sign-up begins at 8 p.m. Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. free Berkeley Coffee 1644 Shattuck Ave. Oakland. 510-428 1935, BerkeleyLatte.com

The Golden State Poetry Slam and Open Mic Hosted by three-time Central State Champion poet Jay Ezra Dive Bi Tiny White and co-hosted by DK Money Boss. All ages welcome. Earn points to be on the 2012 Slam team. First and third Sunday of every month 6:30-10 p.m. 55-17 662 583-8541 GSSlam.com. Grand Lake Coffee House, 449 Grand Ave. Oakland. 510-922 1587

Storytelling Soup Storytelling open mic hosted by Cathy Plaus. Third Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Free. Fresh Berkeley Center 1901 Pine St., Berkeley. 510-333-6957 FreshRoomCenter.org.



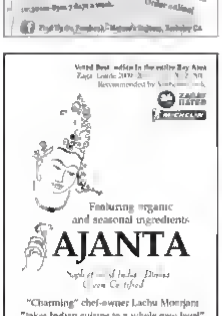
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EastBayExpress.com/calendar







FOOD & DRINK



The K.F.C. Wings may be the first Korean fried chicken in the Bay Area — Chris Bolger

NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S GRANDMA FOOD

Stella Nonna makes a convincing leap from catering business to back-and-mortar neighborhood gem

When a caterer attempts the most leap from boxed lunches to bone fide sit-down restaurant, you might expect a quaint little hole-in-the-wall with Xeroxed menus and a tiny cobbled-together staff — a place long on charm and short on refinement.

That's not at all the scene at Stella Nonna which opened in West Berkeley in late May. For starters it's an awfully handsome restaurant: lovely exposed wood beams, big rectangular skylights, one of those pull-up garage-door "windows" that are all the rage now and the earth tones and milieu of a particularly well appointed Southwestern log cabin.

And though it's a casual restaurant there is a kind of polish to the Stella Nonna dining experience. A hostess greets you warmly at the door and a black-clad waitress dutifully recites the day's specials. The service, in general is notably friendly and attentive — workaday trappings of a sit-down dinner, but often often absent at the East Bay's hipper new eateries, presented here without the awkward musteps you often get from first-time restaurateurs just one month on the job & the vibe.

The food, too defies expectations. The restaurant's name is Italian for "star grandmother," and, according to chef and co-owner Tim Carlon that isn't just shtick: Both he and fellow co-owner (and front-of house maven) Sarah Nasgowitz learned to cook from their grandmothers. But you'd be remiss if you ate here expecting mush Italian grandma food — lasagnas, minestrones, and such. Instead, Carlon has called on a variety of regional and international influences — including New Orleans, Latin America, and the Middle East — to create a menu that feels surprisingly modern from place specializing in "grandma food." It's arguably the best of the recent crop of East Bay restaurants focused on eclectic, globally inspired comfort food.

The complimentary house-baked focaccia bread — leggy, pillowy-soft sticks that come to the table warm — is absolutely worth requesting. And the meatballs in the mini meatball heroes are plump, luscious, and notably airy specimens that would be very much at home atop a platter of Grandma's red sauce spaghetti.

But would you believe it if I told you that some of the best Korean fried chicken I've eaten in the Bay Area is served at this decidedly non-Korean restaurant, run by a couple of white Midwesterners and not some spot on Oakland's much-vaunted Kimchi row? This savory, gochujang (Korean red pepper paste)-based sauce on Carlon's Korean-fried chicken wings was highly addictive, even if it was only a little bit spicy, like a mild Sriracha. The key to the dish is the double-frying technique that Koreans have long sworn by — an initial dip in the fryer cooks the chicken through until the meat is tender; the second, at high heat just before serving, renders the remaining fat and yields well-blistered, shatteringly crisp skin that isn't the least bit greasy. I'd never have predicted it, but Stella Nonna a wings boast the crispiest skin I've encountered in the East Bay. No one would blame you if you get a double order and called it dinner.

On the other end of the fried-chicken spectrum is the "Minnesota Fried Chicken," which is named after Carlon's home state even though the recipe comes straight out of the South — a crunchy-battered, well-seasoned rendition that I liked well enough, though the nitpicker in me wished for at least one piece of dark meat instead of all the wing and breast I was served. In any case, the best parts of the plate were the sides: tender bacon braised greens and a bed of creamy garlicky Florida butter beans (a wide flat lima bean varietal notable for being not too starchy from the heirloom bean specialist Rancho Gordo)

Probably the weirdest entrée was the Hampshire pork *cornetto* (named for the breed of pig, not the English county or New England state), which was made up the following components: citrus-braised pork shoulder served next to a chili relleno stuffed with mac n cheese (!) both of which sat in a pool of mole chile sauce, with a couple of long "ears" of sweet cornbread on the side. Carlon aptly described the dish as a "potluck on a plate" and said it was inspired by his friend's Yucatecan grandmother's *cornitos* recipe. It's a random dish but somehow the flavors worked together though I found the pork to be a bit too lean and dry and wished the cornbread had been served warm.

Even a tried and-true salad of beets and goat cheese had the added pizzazz of deep-fried bacon batons (like fancy Bacon Bits) and toasted pistachios.

And although Stella Nonna isn't an Italian restaurant there were a couple of pasta dishes on the menu, including house-made pappardelle with a meatless, but satisfyingly meaty, porcini mushroom sauce studded with caramelized onions — the sauce an invention of yet *another* friend's grandmother Carlon said. And the lamb bolognese penne was notable for its light and refreshing quality thanks to the addition of charred and shredded mint leaves and a big dollop of fresh ricotta cheese

The dessert menu, on the other hand, sticks to good old American brownies, root beer floats rhubarb crisps and thick wedges of cake — fudgy chocolate cake and carrot cake with cream cheese frosting (a dense, suitably comforting version of a bit pricey at $8 a slice).

It turns out that the restaurant has been at least ten years in the making. Carlon and Nasgowitz said they never intended to flout themselves to corporate luncheons when they launched their catering business (also called Stella Nonna) in the late Nineties first, though a brick-and-mortar spot was always in the cards their plans were waylaid by duplexteas would-be landlords and assorted false starts until the restaurant a current location — previously occupied by the outdoor-gear outlet Wilderness Exchange — became available. I foresee, an happy that they waited to do it right.

Luke ThatsEasyBayExpress.com

Stella Nonna
1407 San Pablo Ave Berkeley
510-524-3400
Hours: Wed-Mon 5:30 p.m 10 p.m
Sat-Sun 10 a.m - 2 p.m
Reservations Accepted
Cash, Visa MasterCard

Sample Menu

K.F.C. Wings	$9.50
Three Mini Meatball Heroes	$9
Nonna Teresa's Pappardelle	$15
Minnesota Fried Chicken	$16
Sylvia's Carrot Cake	$8

AWESOME ROTIS IN WEST BERKELEY

Plus Padi opens a San Leandro branch
Local Cafe to become a pizza joint, and
Bar Dogwood plans an expansion

By Luke Tsai

My favorite street food discovery so far this year didn't take place during a still-young First Friday street party in front of the East Bay's many formalized congregations of gourmet food trucks, and I certainly wasn't served on a porcelain plate at some sit-down restaurant.

Instead, on a recent Wednesday fresh off a trip from the eagle-eyed grub-seekers over at Chowhound, I found myself standing in front of a tiny shack of a food stand set up on a trailer in a barren West Berkeley lot. Daniel's Caribbean Kitchen shares the lot with a small pottery shop called Jered's Pottery (2720 San Pablo Ave.). It's an unassuming little spot, but if you like Trinidadian food, you should head over as soon as possible.

The chef, who introduced himself as "Daniel," hails from Trinidad and Tobago, and his stock-in-trade are *dalpuri* roti wraps flatbread that's stuffed with a potato-and-chickpea curry and your choice of meat, the whole thing folded up so that it resembles a square-shaped, multi-layered burrito. I loved the chicken roti ($6.50) which was loaded with tender shreds of chicken and a mild curry sauce that was soaked up wonderfully by carrots and potatoes cooked very soft, practically to mush. The roti itself was soft and pleasantly chewy, the insides dusted with ground split peas, cumin and other spices (which are what make it a "*dalpuri*" and not just a plain roti), adding an awesome savory quality to the wrap.

Before Daniel folds up your roti, he'll ask if you'd like him to add some Trinidadian hot pepper sauce, and if you can handle a little bit of heat, the answer to that question definitely should be "yes." Shrimp and vegetarian versions of the roti wrap are also available.

Daniel's also offers an interesting selection of homemade beverages, sorrel which I'm familiar with, but also peanut punch and something called sea moss which Daniel told me is a clean tasting drink made from a kind of algae which he simmers and blends with condensed milk. "It's good drink for a man," he said. (Later I read an article entitled, "Sea Moss: the Caribbean's Most Potent Sex Potion" and regretted not making the most of the opportunity). In the end, I settled on the peanut punch ($3) which Daniel said he liked best having grown up with the stuff. The drink is made from peanut butter, condensed milk, and assorted spices (nutmeg being prominent). It's good — not as thick as you might imagine and refreshing despite being quite sweet. Supposedly this, too, will help boost my virility.

During another visit I had the chicken *pelau* ($6.75) the Trinidadian take on chicken and rice: two boneless thighs, pounded flat and slow-braised until tender served over a generous mound of rice that's quite similar in a pilaf kit creamier — drenched in coconut milk — and flecked with pigeon peas. Delicious.

Look, I love Off the Grid — and this new breed of high-end, "artisanal" mobile food vendors — as much as anyone but all the and of the day this is the kind of street food I get excited about: tasty convenient and, just as importantly, inexpensive. Just six or seven dollars (cash only) will buy you a thoroughly satisfying meal.

Daniel sets up his trailer kitchen every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from around 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. — though that schedule is subject to change based on weather and whim (I came by hoping for a roti fix on the Friday after the Fourth of July, and the cart was nowhere to be found.) He also sells at the Berkeley Flea Market (1937 Ashby Ave.) on Saturdays. Look for the tiny trailer with the blue façade and two small Trinidadian flags (red slashed by a black dragonfly hand) billowing in the wind.

You won't miss it. And, really, you don't want to miss out.



Daniel's pelau is delicious. Luke Tsai

Tidbits

Pack the Berkeley Indonesian restaurant whose fiery *sambal* and other Sumatran-style specialties got a rave review from the *Express* this past winter, has opened a second location in San Leandro at 16695 E. 14th St. According to Padi's website, the new spot boasts free parking, an on-site Indonesian grocery store, and, on Sundays only starting at 9 a.m., a traditional Indonesian Chinese breakfast menu. curry chicken porridge two styles of noodle soup curry vegetable soup with rice cake, and fried rice noodle with coconut rice...

Local Cafe (4395 Piedmont Ave. Oakland) has closed after a little less than two years of business. Taking over the space is Pizzarola and Boot and Shoe Service vet Colin Etezadi who plans to reopen the restaurant as Sliver Pizzeria, a seasonally focused pizza restaurant. Etezadi is familiar with the location: He consulted on Local Cafe's opening menu and served as the chef in the restaurant's first few months.

According to Diablo Dish, Uptown Oakland's Bar Dogwood (1644 Telegraph Ave.) — purveyor of fancy cocktails and what is, in our humble opinion, the best grilled cheese sandwich in town — will be expanding into the retail space next door.

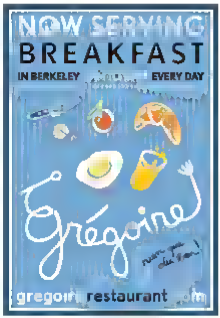
This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com















RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Restaurants in West Berkeley

900 Grayson

900 Grayson St., Berkeley
510-704-0900 | The dishes here, offbeat, campy names (The Ladykiller and TV Dinner) but don't let the kitschy language distract you from the other charms of this quickly upscale breakfast-and-lunch place. The cooking shines with bold seasonings and refined technique, and the service navigates crisp and casual as few restaurants can. That mix of laidback and prurience is a fitting blend for the new West Berkeley, a (traditionally scrappy neighborhood recently sprouting sleek condo lofts. Still, our Grayson burger, topped with chunky bacon and barbecue sauce, shows gastrification's strengths. $$

Anchalee

1084 Gilman St., Berkeley
510-898-9615 | Maybe it's the leafy green shade on the walls or the Zen fountain's gentle gurgle, but you get the feeling of a soothing sequitur—no idiot upon entering this Thai eatery in the heart of what has become known as Berkeley's Left Bank. The menu is crowd-pleasing, known pak kaeng (steamed radish sticks) and pop'iah (crispy vegetable rolls) are two small plates of note, and the tasty pad Thai steers clear of that gloomed-together noodle affect. Lovers of fried banana should try Anchalee's version, served with a generous helping of coconut ice cream. $$

Buttonville Coffee & Wine Bar

1600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley
510-524-4473 | Taking up residence in Cafe Fanny's old digs, Buttonville Coffee and Wine Bar is a tiny, friendly place offering simple, exquisitely crafted fare. Try a savory board of smoked trout, rabbit, housemade pickles, and white-bean purée for a lazy afternoon at the outside tables. Or try the sweet porridge, a unique bowl of red rice and quinoa, simmering in cream and a puddle of melted butter. The French and Italian wines — all from next-door neighbor Kermit Lynch — can be ordered by the half glass, which lets you try a few at an affordable price. $-$$

Bette's Oceanview Diner

1807 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-3230 | In a former light industrial district that was given a dazzling new lease on life, Bette's retools typical diner cuisine into the stratosphere. A pistachio and shiny counter bespeak the 1940s, and Philadelphia scrapple and corned-beef hash are popular. But FDR never tasted anything like these soaringly fluffy souffléed pancakes [served with seasonal fruits] or the lightly fried cod fillets, served on open-faced baguettes with house-made tartar. Expect consistency as most menu items and preparations have been the same since Bette's passed in 1982. Be forewarned: Bette's wait times can be brutal, so bring a book and a sense of humor. $$

Brasa

1638 University Ave., Berkeley
510-868-0735 | In the same space formerly occupied by their popular restaurant Eccolo, chef-owners Christopher and Virginia Lacombe now serve rotisserie chicken along with rice bowls, juicy hot sandwiches, and other street foods of Peruvian-native Peru. Fueled by a range of richly assertive peppers, Peruvian cuisine has spent centuries soaking up the flavors of Spain, France, Asia, Africa, and indigenous peoples. Peruvian street food is messy, mostly smoky, sexy, satisfying, and family-friendly. The Gonzalves a cooking reconfigured by a drunken sailor or a crazy teenager." The French fries are made the stuck-sauce-bowls. Skirt steak salads and sweet-potato fries, but tofu inside a roll or atop white rice is the only vegetarian entrée. Can Ninan knock beef hearts win your heart? Brasa is a fun, friendly, affordable place to find out. $

Cafe M

1709 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-528-4449 | Creative renderings of classic egg dishes, pancakes, and French toast are the main event at this comfortable, kid-friendly spot on Berkeley's Fourth Street. Cafe M (the "M" is for Masarweh, as in Doyle Street Cafe co-owner George Masarweh) also serves lunch and dinner, but breakfast is its finest hour. Noteworthy options include the soda breakfast and the blueberry buckwheat pancakes, and happily there's Peet's coffee and tea to wash it all down. $$

Cafe Rouge

1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1111 | Berkeley's well-certified and well-liked local Cafe Rouge in heart. Its classic Californian restaurant complete with all the trappings: organic vegetables and sustainably raised meats, a wood-fired oven, and smooth and efficient service. Chef Marsha McBride creates deceptively simple food, but imbues even her hamburgers with juicy meaty love. Some say her roast chicken with savory bread pudding is one of the best dishes in the region. $$-$$$

Gaumenkitzel

2121 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley
510-647-9016 | Gleefully redefining "plain" and "simple" in German farmhouse fare that ranges from hand-brewed weissbier to beef roulade and roasted vegetables, Hand-and-heel husband-and-wife owners Kai Plaehn and Anja Voth collect recipes from early-20th-century German cookbooks. They use nearly 100 percent organic, local, seasonal, sustainably sourced, pesticide- and poultry-free components, including grass-fed beef — but best of all, they make many of their key ingredients in-house. Plaehn and Voth curdle their own yogurt, press their own apples, brew their own fruit syrups and mustard cream, and flake their own oats from full kernels. Voth not only bakes her own bread and rolls but actually mills her own whole-wheat flour. Breakfast, lunch, teatime, and supper menus augment an all-day pastry array. $$

Jimmy Beans

1280 Sixth St., Berkeley 510-528-3438 | To ably garage-like Jimmy Beans marries the blue-collar soul of Gilman Street in a foods-of-the-world culinary sensibility that's pure Berkeley. Show up at breakfast for silver-dollar pancakes and omelets garnished with cumin-laced green chutney or at lunch for the delectable lamb meatballs and pork-and-chicken tavash. Dinner is mellower without the crush of bisonty and restlessness that makes this place feel essential to the neighborhood. $-$$

O Chamé

1830 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-841-1683 | Simple, sublime Japanese dishes are served with robust California Mediterranean accents at this venerable Berkeley institution. The creamy, smoky tuna sashimi with braised leeks is an ideal meal-opener. The ever-changing entrée menu might include delicate grilled sturgeon with a cornucopia of shard, peppers, and mushrooms or chopstick-tender skirt steak with braised spinach and earthy portobello mushrooms. A half dozen fragrant, revivifying noodle bowls are served as well (the roasted eggplant-and-seed-daikon variety is especially comforting). Get the salty-sweet caramel-balsamic gelato for dessert. Impressive boutique wine and sake list, handsome Tuscan setting. $$$

Poison

2031 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley
510-849-1051 | The thin-crust pizza concept from the Ko Restaurant Group (Sea Salt, Tuna, Lalime's, etc.) serves a sort of hybrid Neapolitan-NorCal pie, showcasing farm-fresh produce and high-end proteins on the chewy crust of crust Californians seem to prefer. The space is handsome, with exposed brick, rough lumber, and floor-to-ceiling windows looking out on San Pablo Avenue—but the quality of the pizzas varies (rule of thumb: here the more toppings the better). The day starts with a casual breakfast featuring like Bottle

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Mokajeste

1734 Webster St., Oakland, 510-496-6615, MokajesteCoffee.com. Mokajete is a rare find indeed: a Mexican restaurant in Uptown Oakland with all of the homeyness and quirky charm of a Fruitvale hole-in-the-wall, but with pretty plating and an uncommonly light touch with even the heartiest dishes. Here, refried beans are a deep, gleaming black and an ethereally light as whipped hummus, and every plate comes with a little cabbage-dusted attractively with finely grated Cotija cheese. But where Mokajete's skimps is in its many different incarnations of mole — most notably in the form of its corn tortillas, which are slightly larger than a silver-dollar pancake and wonderfully fragrant and light, but akin in its lesser-known specialties like the fluffy slipper-shaped chalupa (topped with a "salad" of cabbage, refried beans, and fried steak) and the chicken-and-cheese-filled turnoverlike known as *tlacoyitos negros* and *quesadillas tandur* (chicken enchiladas submerging in a pool of eminently smooth *mole poblano*. $$

Sidestreet Pho

939 14 Avenue, Alameda, 510-808-4998, SidestreetPho.com. At Sidestreet Pho — a sleek, modern restaurant located, yes, on a side street in Alameda — you'll find Pacific flavors and out-of-the-way small eats that aren't uncommon at the long stretch of divey *pho* joints on Oakland's International Boulevard, but often get omitted at upscale Vietnamese restaurants. Here, atmosphere doesn't come at the expense of authenticity. You can taste the care that goes into the restaurant's namesake dish — the complex, delicate beef broth has a mysterious hint of many flavors cooked for many many hours. And beyond *pho*, Sidestreet is a great place to try other street food specialties: broken-rice combo platter *banh mi bo bo* (a hearty beef stew served with soft bread for dunking) and nuggets of turmeric-marinated bass fish, wok-charred chili and rice vermicelli, all mixed together with a pungent fermented shrimp dressing — Hanoi's answer to Korean *bibimbap*. $$

Next Door

4299 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-394-7600, NextDoorBerkeley.com. Chef Sharon Lorraine Anderson calls her approach "comfort food without borders," the idea being that even while the foods people find comforting — that remind them of Grandma's cooking or of their hometown — are culturally specific, there's no reason that Persian-style chicken wings and Italian-American lasagna shouldn't coexist at one restaurant. Still, the heart and soul of Anderson's restaurant, Next Door, still lies in the traditional dishes of the American South: Complimentary marinated

arrives at the table warm and only slightly sweet at the crisp edges. A thick, slow-brined pork chop — nicely charred and served in a pool of its own jus — comes with stewed greens and tangy, flecked mashed sweet potatoes. The menu also features buttermilk fried chicken, creamy grits, and, best of all, a moist, showstopping butterscotch custard that's topped with candied pecans and is intensely caramel-y and caramel sauce. $16-$35

Marrow

376 16th Street, Oakland, 510-251-1111, MarrowOakland.com. Practitioners of whole-animal cookery believe that if humans are going to kill animals for their meat, it is only right to use up every last "cold bit." Marrow's owner Jon Kaurek (formerly of Jon's Street Eats), isn't the first East Bay chef to adopt this philosophy, but he might be the first to open a restaurant promising that every piece of meat will come from a whole animal, dismantled on-site — but this butcher shop of a sandwich shop with barely a bones seats. Even putting bones of consumers aside, the meat-centric fare at Marrow is outstanding. Depending on what animal Kaurek is focused on currently, the menu might feature Marrow's always-served beef Reuben, a grilled pork terrine served with a 64-degree egg, a surprisingly delicate "Grilled Cheese" filled with smoky, roasted salmon, or, of course the restaurant's namesake: marrow bones — a dish that, like many of Marrow's offerings, is as simple as it is decadent. $$

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ECOLOGY CENTER FARMERS' MARKETS
TUESDAYS — South Berkeley, 2 - 6:30 pm, Adeline Street at 63rd Street
WEDNESDAYS — Albany, 3 - 7 pm, Solano Avenue at San Pablo, Albany
THURSDAYS — North Shattuck, 3 - 7 pm, Shattuck Avenue at Rose Street
SATURDAYS — Downtown Berkeley, 10 am - 3 pm, Center Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way
The Heart of the Fresh, Local Food Movement Since 1987

LATE NIGHT HAPPY HOUR
M-F 5-11PM
LIVE MUSIC - Thurs & Fri
Trivia & Comedy Night Coming Soon!
THE TERRACE ROOM

Riva Cucina

3500 Helen Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-7482, Chef-owner Massimo and Beldrin grew up in Emilia Romagna, the Italian region that invented pasta. Naturally, the many house-made shapes are fantastic, teamed with the kind of radical simplicity that makes a dish like tubes with tomato sauce and grilled sardines taste primordial. Beldrin is fussy about his seafood — it is usually local and consistently delicious. The semi-hidden space he's carved out feels unusual for a restaurant with such serious chops, but he's all part of the charm. $$-$$$

Skates on the Bay

1 0 Seawall Dr., Berkeley, 510-549-3400. This large Fodmik friendly eatery in the Berkeley Marina isn't a place to visit for the food but I'm worth a try. If you're looking for a unique and pleasantly surreal dining experience. The to-die-for view (cheerful weltteraff and great happy-hour specials could all make it worth your while. Try a

flight from the extensive wine list, or sample the sublime clam chowder or chocolate cake. Just remember that if you go to celebrate your birthday you won't be the only one. $$

Smoke Berkeley

2454 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8801. Smoke is mostly just a takeout counter situated in a tiny building on the edge of a car wash parking lot. Still, you'll be hard-pressed to find a more welcoming bottom than chef-owner Tina Ferguson-Riffe, a native Texan. The barbecue is good, too, especially the brisket and the Asian-inspired tea-smoked salmon, as well as the homemade spicy barbecue sauce, which, with its smoky, complex heat, is in the conversation for best in the East Bay. Better still are the side dishes — a mix of traditional ones and others that have playful globally inspired twists: Mexican cornbread (a Texas classic); zucchini pancakes that wouldn't be out of place in a Jewish deli counter; jalapeño-spiked mac 'n cheese; and, best of all, Texas-style baked beans, slow-cooked in a sweet, garlicky sauce loaded with nubs of soft beef fat. $$

Sprenger's Fresh Fish Grotto

5114 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-843-2771. Despite the 1950-era-retro-old fish house part of the McCormick & Schmick's chain, serves up some of food from around the globe in a kitschy, unchallenging preparations reminiscent of a bygone era. Everything a perfectly filling and nutritious, but aside from a few exceptions the basic, spicy barbecued shrimp, for instance — it just isn't very tasty or exciting. Best bets: the perfectly crafted cocktails and the sublime desserts — try the chocolate bag filled with luscious mousse and fresh berries. Undoubtedly impressive and more features several acres of vintage seating memorabilia. $$$

Price Key

Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately:
$ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50









An irony-free moment.

LAST CALL, INDEED

Made with genuine care and fresh fruit.

By Ellen Cushing

Some bars you don't write about because there's nothing to say — because the words just won't stick, because it's pleasant enough but nothing special. Because after two years and nearly ninety columns, you realize that sometimes a bar really is just a bar, no matter how hard you try to wrench a metaphor out of it. Other bars you don't write about because there's *everything* to say, because they're almost too perfect, because they're pleasant enough *and* something special.

Because since three years ago, during a protest when all hell was breaking loose in Oakland, as it does, and people were scared — windows boarded up, businesses closed — you saw Peter Van Kleef, standing outside his very much-open bar, a trash-can fire raging roughly ten feet away from him, smoking a cigarette and looking not the least bit concerned, and you went inside for a beer and it was maybe the best thing you've ever had. Because another time, when a bartender saw you eyeing the old-fashioned pay phone on the wall, he told you, with an absolutely straight face, to "be careful with that phone man — it only calls God." And it was so manifestly the stuff of an overwrought bar column that you knew you could never use it, or at least that you'd have to save it for a special (and irony-free!) moment.

I started writing about bars two years ago as something of a joke, or at least a lark. I was 23, and drinking on the paper's dime seemed like a dream come true. (It was, and it is.) Now as I prepare to leave — the East Bay, the *Express*, the alcohol heat — choosing to write about bars feels like a remarkably, luckily prescient move. In the time I've been writing Last Call, at least a dozen new bars have popped up in downtown Oakland alone, with probably at least that many currently in the works. And they make for a disarmingly convenient symbol — for Oakland circa 2013, for authenticity (or lack thereof), for urban revitalization or gentrification or whatever you want to call it (for ugh, Brooklyn, for breathless *New York Times* writers and black masked window smashers alike).

In the ten years since Cafe Van Kleef opened the area around has become so thoroughly and so dramatically enlivened it's almost hard to believe — but so has Oakland, so has the Bay Area booze scene at large. Van Kleef pre-dated Art Murmur and Occupy and Imrie taxidermy, if in 2003 its drinks — made with genuine care and fresh fruit, hand squeezed on the spot — were unfathomably forward thinking, now they're standard. Van Kleef is the Old Oakland, but it's also the New Oakland, or maybe it's just Oakland, and maybe all these things aren't as different as we think. At any rate, Van Kleef's metaphors need no wrenching out.

I went there on Sunday. Outside all hell was breaking loose in Oakland, as it does, and inside Van Kleef was quiet, warm, dark and inviting, as it is. A bartender handed me Cheez-Its and the woman next to me read her book. I drank a beer, and it was maybe the second-best I've ever had. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Tea Tasting with Michel Join famed Yu, the owner founder and head tea buyer for Teance tea company in Berkeley for a tasting of carefully sourced international teas. Sat. July 26 10 a.m.-noon. $25. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr. Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

Boston Tea Party Broadway Returning the town of Oakland's food culture. Lawn games, table tennis, face painting, and more. Fridays. Continues through Oct. 11 free Studio 1 and Art Center 360 45th St. Pradeep 510-597-5021 StudioOneArtCenter.net.

Vintage Berkeley Wine Tasting Try five wines for $5 at Rose on the Vine St. and College Ave. stores. Check their Facebook feeder in the day for details on what bottles will be poured that day. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m., $5 through Berkeley 2119 Vine St., Berkeley. 510-665-6000

Educational Classes and Wines Wine Tasting It is easily wine tasting with all interests by joining local farmers. Fridays, 5-7:30 p.m. at least 21 per night. Farmers of Cheeses & Wines, 6018 La Salle Ave. Oakland. 510-864-8463, FarmersandCheesesandWines.com.

Farmstead Educational Hosted by Farmers with knowledgeable staff, with all proceeds going to local schools. Thursdays, 5-6 p.m., Saturdays, 2-3 p.m., $1 per night. Farmstead Cheeses & Wines, 6018 La Salle Ave. Oakland. 510-864-8463, FarmersandCheesesandWines.com.

"Food for Thought: Economics and Food" Tasha Brooks presents in locally handmade Mirrfield Mezzanine drink local wines, latch from to their bottles drink beverages, and participate in stay market. Sat. July 20, 6:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 5275 Lasher Organic Supply, 1251 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley.

Oat Stuffed Food Market Featuring food trucks, pets, nuts and other vendors including Berkeley Bird's Kettle Corn, Mountains Make a (Italian Ices) Nina Kao Cornue Restaurant Pacific market, foodies, and Rosalia's Bean Truck (coffee and dog treats). Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free College of Alameda, 555 Atlantic Ave. Alameda. 510-522-7321, Alameda.Terrace.edu

Off the Grid With fresh trucks, drinks for sale (music, kids activities, and food-police requests subsequent Fridays, 5-9 p.m., free. Oakland peasant of California, 1000 Bay St., Oakland. 510-318-8408, Mosaic.Art

Street Food Tuesdays With food truck-inspired small plates served in a restaurant setting. Tuesdays, 53-98, 3060-551 1766. Rangers Restaurant, at Island Rd., Berkeley. 510-548-8687, RangersRestaurant.com.

Gourmet Style Pig Roast Hosted pig for $20. Lunch Speakers for 64 and, Farmer Brand for $5. Featuring the music by The Mercury Two Sun. July 21, 4-8 p.m. Chop Bar 241 4th St. Oakland 510-836-2467 OaklandChopBar.com.

"Tagine Traditional Pop-Up Night With Moroccan food Hosted by chef Youssef Amsen. Every other Thursday, 6-10 p.m. Gourmet Cafe 1820 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-849-2220 GourmetCafe.com.

Tea Tasting with Michel Join Winnie Yu, the owner founder and head tea buyer for Teance tea company in Berkeley for a tasting of carefully sourced international teas. Sat. July 26 10 a.m.-noon. $25. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr. Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

Gourmet Pregnant Street Flavors. Try Bill wines for $5 in both the Vine St. and College Ave. stores. Check their Facebook feeder in the day for details on what bottles will be poured that day. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m., $5 through Berkeley 2119 Vine St., Berkeley. 510-665-6000

FARMERS' MARKETS

Pregnant Farmers' Market With freshly grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 9 a.m. 1 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. 1 p.m. free PCFMA.com. Alameda Farmers Market, Haight Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

BAHIA Farm Fresh Cuisine Community Produce Stand Farm Fresh Cheese runs produce stands in between-resource neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m., free 510-848-1784 EastingCenter.org. Berkeley Youth Alternatives, 1256 Allston Wy. Berkeley 510-845-9010 Bonaldo.org

Fruitvale Farmers Market With locally grown and produced fruit, vegetables, bread products, and more. Among WIC and EBT Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free, 510-535-6978 Fruitvale MART Blvd., 34th East 12th St. Fruitvale

Grand Lake Farmers Market The weekly market there more than 70 pregnant-performed foods, arts and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free 800-897-3276, SplashPad.org/farmersandMerit. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave. Pregnant 510-238-7215 Thefarmersmarket.com/Parks/Parks_Default.asp

Kaiser International Produce Produce Market With vendors selling fresh all-organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free PCFMA.com. Kaiser Pregnant 1800 Harrison St. Produce

Kensington Farmers' Market With fresh-cut Fresh flowers, fresh organic chocolates and products, fresh wild-ripe fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, breed, flowers, fresh pasta, and seasonal samosas. The market and those live music and other tomorrow. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free, 510-841-0801, KensingtonFarmersMarket.org. Stanley Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Genuine Village Farmers Market Featuring organic and pregnant foods. Free parking in Village garage at the top of La Salle Avenue. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free, MontclairVillage.com/farmers_market.html. Downtown Montclair Village LaSalle and Mendoza Aves. Oakland

North Berkeley Natural Market With market specialty foods, all-organic produce and more for sale along with special programs and events. WIC and EBT programs. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free, 510-548-3333, EastingCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St. Berkeley

North Berkeley Pregnant Natural Farmers Market Brand and WIC valley Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. free 510-250-1951 PlantBasedProducing. Children's Hospital & pregnant Center Produce 747 52nd St. Produce

North Oakland Flea & Antiques Market With a healthy cafe and convenient kitchen space to make pregnant produce from Bay Area farms, and flea market goods. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free, PrideEventsProducer.org. Pfeil Boats Saturday Farmers Market, 942 pregnant Ave. Oakland

Old Produce Farmers Market Produce stands and outdoor tents, ale and other organic foods along with variety of samples. Fridays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. free. 600 Hobart Farmers Market 10th St. Produce Broadway and Clay St. Oakland pregnant Ingredients corn markets, old-colored

Pacific Coast Herb Lavender Flowers, Farmers' Market With seasonal Produce growers, dried flowers, hand-tinted, produce nut flowers pregnant foods, yoga Market live music, food and pest items for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free PCFMA.com. 1444 Lavender Square, Hartford and Water St. Hartford

Richmond Food Swap Swap your pesticide garden Market at swaps with your neighbors. Sundays, 5-6 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30. free Richmond Public Library 325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, 510-620-6555, ci.Richmond.ca.us/Produce.aspx?Nr=105

Genuine Farmers Market With fresh, locally grown fruit, live vendors. Flowers, eggs and other produce. WIC and SNAP accepted. Fridays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. RichmondFarmersMarket.org. Genuine Farmers Market, 24th St. and Genuine Ave. Richmond

Genuine Main Street Farmers Market With fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, flowers, and a range of other agricultural and culinary products from farm farmers, winemakers. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Continues through Oct. 30, free, 510-236-4060, RichmondMainStreet.org. News Plaza, 13th Street and Bonita Avenue, Richmond

Saturday Berkeley Farmers Market With fresh and organic produce, breads, produce foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free, 510-548-3333, EastingCenter.org. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-6959, CityofBerkeley.info

South Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh produce and gifts, food for sale Tuesdays, 2-6:30 p.m. South Berkeley Farmers' Market, Adeline and 63rd sts. Berkeley. 510-548-3333 EastingCenter.org

Genuine Farmers Market California certified farmers, other seasonal produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, hand-ed flowers, and more. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free 510-415-7190 OMV Parking Lot, 5300 Clarement Ave. Oakland

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. free 510-548-3333 EastingCenter.org. Berkeley Farmers' Market, Derby St. and Bancus Market Berkeley 510-548-3333 EastingCenter.org.







PICK

Vegan Cupcake Bake-off



The cupcakes are sweet, they're small and topped, and some of them are sprinkly. They're cupcakes, and they're the main course at the Rock Paper Scissors Collective's (2278 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) fifth annual Cupcake Bake-Off. General admission lets participants sample all the competitors (along with local tea from SoHaTea Co.) and cast votes in hopes of selecting the best Bay's best cupcake.

An extra plus for the all-animal kingdom — and an added challenge for bakers — is that all competing recipes must be vegan. No butter's in those bakes. *Annie Roths*

Saturday, July 20, 1 p.m., $5. RPSCollective.org

WORLD WITHOUT END

Stoned in Chile (*Crystal Fairy*)
Doomed in the *Pacific Rim*

By Kelly Vance

There are ordinary young-adult road trip movies, and then there is Sebastián Silva's *Crystal Fairy*.

The trouble starts when American visitor Jamie (Michael Cera) convinces his Chilean stoner buddies Champa (Juan Andrés Silva), Lefi (José Miguel Silva), and Pilo (Agustín Silva), a trio of brothers — all of them real-life siblings at the filmmaker — to drive from their Santiago home to the north of Chile in search of a natural hallucinogenic called the San Pedro Cactus, which grows in the Atacama Desert.

Jamie is a bookish know-it-all who talks too much and is so anal as they come — but nevertheless, the easy-going brothers follow his advice and set off for the town of Copiapó with him and an unexpected fifth party: a foot loose young woman named Crystal Fairy (Gaby Hoffmann) whom Jamie has picked up off the street. But Jamie and Crystal Fairy are a bad combination, like gunpowder and matches.

Fans of inventive Latin American cinema will remember Sebastián Silva's *The Maid* (2009) and *Old Cats* (2010) two of the best sexual-communitary character studies to play art houses in recent years. Silva, a former hip-hop singer has a definite preference for female characters. In *The Maid*, a domestic named Raquel (Catalina Saavedra) suffers at the hands of her upper-middle-class "family." In *Old Cats*, it's a senior citizen on the verge of dementia (Belgen Castro) with a leeching, dismissive daughter.

Now with *Crystal Fairy*, the protagonist is a wild-eyed, free-spirited, North American nature girl — or vacation from her day job as a dominatrix — who causes disruption wherever she goes. Super-hippie Crystal has an unmedi-



Michael Cera and Gaby Hoffmann star in the road-tripper *Crystal Fairy*

ate negative effect on the boys. She smells fun (my talks out of turn (her nickname for Jamie is *Pollo*) and is prone to stripping off her clothes with no warning. Behind her back they call her "Crystal Hairy," but the brothers are courteous to her. Not so Jamie, who generally does the Ugly American in his search for the magic "big cac-toose." Is he a pathetic drug fiend or just an asshole? And what is Crystal all about? Everything comes to a head in a campout on the beach cooking up a nopalito stew and "sharing their fears" about the Mayan calendar and the end of the world.

Cera, veteran of numerous misbegotten quests (*Superbad*, *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*, *Youth in Oasis*) is perfect by cast as the effiicious pushy Jamie, whom so might be doesn't see faces in the rocks. But the star of the deceptively deep-water duper road tripper is Hoffmann, the onetime juvenile actress (*Field of Dreams*, *Sleepless in Seattle*, *All I Wanna Do*) who can get a reaction from anyone even a dead rabbit. Silva may be the best director she has ever worked for. *Crystal Fairy* is a must-see.

Earth is doomed. *Okay-what else is new?* An ultra violent, rapacious breed of gigantic reptilian behemoths from the earth's core is rising out of the Pacific Ocean and ramshackling the entire Pacific region — San Francisco, Tokyo, Alaska, Sydney — in a bid to take over the Earth. They're called Kaiju, the Japanese term for giant monsters, and like Godzilla, their genesis is a result of environmental tampering. *Right. I'm following you and we're* That's the set-up for *Pacific Rim*, a Guillermo del Toro's oddly exhilarating but basically routine sci-fi spectacle. It's exhilarating because the special effects are colossal, stupendous, staggering and practically nonstop — the hi-voyaught slugfests take up at least 90 minutes of the 131 minute running time. The action is exquisitely rendered as well as stupefyingly loud. The "routine" part has to do with the stuff sandwiched in between fights, little things like story and characterization.

Mainly, English actor Charlie Hunnam (*Deadfall*) plays Raleigh Becket, a construction worker and former Jaeger pilot called back into the service by Marshal Stacker Pentecost (action stalwart Idris Elba) the supreme military commander. Both Raleigh and his new female co-pilot Mako Mori (Rinko Kikuchi) the teenager from Beckett) have unresolved issues from the past that they must deal with in addition to some *Top Gun*-style hotshot pilot rivalry antics. Raleigh doubts himself after the combat death of his brother. Mako was terrorized as a child by a Kaiju who killed her parents. Another Jaeger team: an Australian father-son combination offers resistance to Raleigh and Mako, but that passes. Now they have to face the mighty kaiju in an epic battle in Hong Kong, and prove they have the right stuff. Along the way enessete del Toro quotes every movie from *Blade Runner* to *Chinatown*.

Raleigh and Mako's budding relationship, their father service feuds, their inner demons, even the presence of some relief in the form of two geeky scientists (Charlie Day and Burn Gorman) and a monster "used Kaiju-parts dealer" named Hannibal Chau (Ron Perlman) — it's all filler written by del Toro and screenwriter Travis Beacham (*Clash of the Titans*) to kill time before the next round of fisticuffs. If you're going to *Pacific Rim* to see anything but a romping, stomping, cataclysm royale, you're in the wrong auditorium.

We can't help thinking of filmmaker del Toro's early gothic work in Mexico and Spain. *Cronos*, *The Devil's Backbone* and *Pan's Labyrinth* possess an element of mystery a lingering sense of unexplainable, that makes each of them unforgettable. But *Pacific Rim* is all too easily explained. It's obvious and dispensable, just another explosion filled war of the worlds with this month's most fantastic visuals.

We don't necessarily want to instigate the director. After all it's his big-buck move up the food chain to get to play with a huge budget and provide booms and bangs which he once dealt in cries and whispers. But the project is too simple-minded to take very seriously. If del Toro and his associates wanted our respect they would have taken the money they spent on the children's toy and used it to feed and edit one poor people living in the real Pacific Rim instead. Just to put it in perspective. ●

Kelly Vance@EastBayExpress.com

Crystal Fairy

Directed by Sebastián Silva. With Michael Cera, Gaby Hoffmann, Juan Andrés Silva, José Miguel Silva, and Agustín Silva. Opens Friday

Pacific Rim

Directed by Guillermo del Toro. With Charlie Hunnam, Idris Elba, Rinko Kikuchi, and Ron Perlman. Opens Friday

MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, go to EastBayExpress.com or scan the QR code. Capsule reviews are written by J. R. Jones (J.J.), Ben Sachs (B.S.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

Opening

Ginger & Rosa (R) The title story of the man known in life as the Flying Sikh — Ryanair czar Micha Singh. The world *Champion* athlete who has country go through world war during the India-Pakistan partition and managed to move the measure of his family and his growing Psychokinesis to become one of India's most iconic athletes. Directed by Rakesh Omprakash Mehra; written by Prasoon Joshi. Starring Dhanush Akshay. (168 min.)

The Conjuring A grimoire (Lili Taylor) father (Ron Livingston) and their five young daughters move into a farmhouse in rural Long Island, discovering mental unrest and a town of demonologists, led by Vera Farmiga and Patrick Wilson, is called in to help make the specials. It's a solid, deceptively scary ghost tale and to old-fashioned story elements fit in nicely with the 1981 boogie-in-a-true-story framework. So what if it's not *The Exorcist*? Taylor and Farmiga, as the the defensive brother, do an especially fine job with the familiar-looking screenplay by twin-screenwriters Chad Hayes and Carey Hayes. Directed by writer/horrorist by James Wan (*Saw*, franchise; *Insidious*). (K.V.)

Despicable Me 2 (PG) Steve Carell returns as the voice of Gru, the former supervillain who has gone straight and is now raising three adopted girls. Kristen Wiig, Benjamin Bratt, and Steve Coogan also lend their voices to this animated sequel. Directed by Pierre Coffin and Chris Renaud. (98 min.)

Elysium (R) Matt Damon plays a factory worker in a dystopian future who is exposed to lethal radiation and must undergo a dangerous procedure to save his life. Jodie Foster, Sharlto Copley, and Alice Braga also star in this sci-fi thriller from writer-director Neill Blomkamp (*District 9*). (109 min.)

Elysium (R) Matt Damon plays a factory worker in a dystopian future who is exposed to lethal radiation and must undergo a dangerous procedure to save his life. Jodie Foster, Sharlto Copley, and Alice Braga also star in this sci-fi thriller from writer-director Neill Blomkamp (*District 9*). (109 min.)

Kevin Hart: Let the Explosion Kevin Hart's solo act 2012 performance at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. (101 min.)

Lovelace (R) Amanda Seyfried plays Linda Lovelace, the star of the 1972 porn film *Deep Throat*, which was a huge hit and made Lovelace famous. But Lovelace's life was not all glamour and fun, and this biopic explores the dark side of the porn industry. Peter Sarsgaard, Sharon Stone, Hank Azaria, and Juno Temple also star. Directed by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman. (93 min.)

Only God Forgives Ryan Gosling and Kristin Scott Thomas star in this violent crime drama about a drug dealer who is forced to confront his mother after his brother is killed in Bangkok. Directed by Nicolas Winding Refn. (90 min.)

Pacific Rim (PG-13) Charlie Hunnam and Idris Elba star in this sci-fi action movie about a war between humans and monsters. Rinko Kikuchi and Ron Perlman also star. Directed by Guillermo del Toro. (131 min.)

Planes (PG) Dane Cook voices Dusty, a crop duster who dreams of competing in a famous air race around the world. Stacy Keach, Brad Garrett, Teri Hatcher, and Cedric the Entertainer also lend their voices to this animated adventure. Directed by Klay Hall. (91 min.)

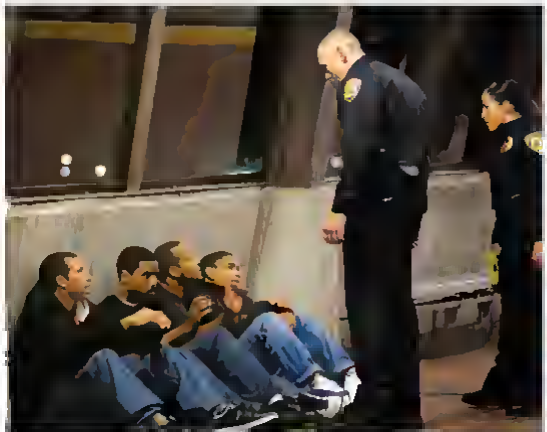
Red 2 (PG-13) Bruce Willis, John Malkovich, Mary-Louise Parker, and Helen Mirren return for this sequel to the 2010 action comedy about a group of retired CIA agents who are forced back into action. Anthony Hopkins, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Byung-hun Lee, and Neal McDonough also star. Directed by Dean Parisot. (116 min.)

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com or by scanning the code below



Phil Caine: Shalom

ONGOING

28 Feet From Stardom More musicals to see on display than by any other pic you'll see this year. Director Morgan Neville's masterful documentary backgrounder on the golden age of black female backup singers hits us with a total sense of soul, as Merry Clayton (director Love, Tina Vega Claudia Lennear, Judith Hill Lisa Fischer, Patti Austin, and many, many more singers countenance why they deserve the kind of face-time newsprint. Their "session" before the singers work the we has been Stevie Wonder Mick Jagger, Bruce Springsteen, and Joe Adler et al. Among the multitude of anecdotes: the story of how Ms. Clayton was called out of bed in the middle of the night to come to the recording studio to sing the powerhouse "Gimme Shelter" refrain in the Rolling Stones' "Gimme Shelter". Lovers of classic R&B and rock will never get tired of rewatching the movie and its cavalcade of performance footage. (87 min.) (C.V.)

Before Midnight In folk-singer-cozy-n Saskatchewan. The first on-cy-n Richard Linklater's Before series (with Co-writers Ie Delpit and Jesse (Ethan Hawke) the R.-by lovers from Before Sunrise and Before Sunrise, now married with children, holidaying on an exotic writers' retreat in Greece, and basking out at their studio. So they thrash out their thrash in the same talkative style Linklater and himself have perfected. Eric Rohmer fellows while to get rolling, but when Hawke and especially Delpy heat up to the stove and they actually seem to sparkle before our eyes. We really want to believe these two people love each other – and that their romance has carried from the dude chaser to one of hard work and perseverance for the long haul. The dialogue worked out by the two actors and director Linklater, in a certain pass. (108 min.) (A.H.V.)

The Bling Ring The story of a circuit of San Fernando Va ley teenage girls (and one boy) amply afterdark hobby is to break into celebrities empty homes and steal fabulous high-fashion clothes is very black as filmmaker Sofia Coppola's direction tone, but this doesn't prevent it from being one of her best movies – mostly because of the writing. The combo of true crime and SoCal suburban decadence is irresistible especially when ring before shooter (Katie Chang) and her sidekick Nerie (Israel Broussard) are magnified director Coppola's bitchy/whimsical dialogue adapted from a *Vanity Fair* article by Nancy Jo Sales. The news that the screenplay is based on a recently cons dose real disaster as at the least. It confirms everything we already think about people who obsessively watch TMZ. Costarring Emma Watson, Taissa Julian, and Paris Hilton who plays herself as the ultimate fashion victim-turned-crime star. See how they ran (87 min.) (R.V.)

Deceptive Practice: The Mysteries and Deceivers of Ricky Jay Ricky Jay meets magician and card shaker extraordinaire. He has vail of secrecy over as slightly to introduce us to his scene and it's fascinating. Molly Bernstein and Alan Edelstein's documentary biography of the director is chock full of magic tricks and love with appearances by such devotees and imitators as David Blaine, Dick Cavett, and Steve Martin. Jay is a natural hard case, and you'd never, ever want to get into a card game with him, but he's so genteel Bourne Broussard to watch and learn it. The Ice Cube trick alone is worth the ticket price. Step right up. (85 min.) (R.V.)

Despicable Me 2 Sequel to the animated director epic following the Anti-Villain League as it fights its biggest enemy yet. Directed by Pierre Coffin and Chris Renaud; written by Ken Daurio and Cinco Paul; with voices by Steve Carell and Kristen Wiig. (98 min.) (R.V.)

The East Actress Brit Marling, of the best blankfeeze, once must turn into undercover schlimmer predicaments under the guidance of filmmaker Zal Batmanglij with whom she made *The Sound of My Voice*. The tone Marling plays Sarah, a resourceful, ally determined operative sent by shadow corporate security exec Patricia Clayton to spy on the elite band of liberal eco-terrorists. Lots

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com





MUT

could anyone stitch-up the hammer, spread the bread. The Ken's ammunition, leader (played by Alexander Skarsgård) might turn up the alternate dedicated Sarah. Bolmanglil's screenplay, written with Meeling, is a more lightly composed variation on the writer/team's framework, with the trained attraction of scene transitions (light-wrong, ambiguity transition the tragic amount and their one-pretender adversaries. Cased characterizing by Starling and Skarsgård as and as Ellen Page as a mid-list turned-rebel. Had to put the first 2 notes on it. (110 min.) (K.V.)

Inhuman Business The dismemberation of the killing of 22-year-old East Bay transition crash Grant (1) by BART police in the early smash of New Year's Day, 2009 and the makings to a simmering case by named. But in the cool, calm instead of media filmmaker Ryan Coogler the final day of Grant's life based on showing as we get to know him (played by actor Michael B. Jordan), his girlfriend (Melonie Diaz), his relatives, his associates, and the rhythms in their experiences. The frame — with written interviews, notably a weaned (Mike O'Reilly) with writer/director as a correspondent, giant a notorious published name a energetically assertive-face drama also provides a smaller impact to actor's means to his associates. (Genre, pixie profiled under suspicion, etc. Written and directed by Coogler. (85 min.) (K.V.)

The Great Gatsby Baz Luhrmann rather not another F. Scott Fitzgerald's landmark novel stash, a mystic-dust-rich rust at the Roaring Twenties, named he and it die a lingering death while going broad. his usual business: hyperactive visuals (Luhrmann's glorified yet, with remarkably inventive 3D), superficial master-attained, and large instead of and the women Luhrmann (McCann romances stash named Citizen Kane (plus a Sequel, dubbed the code) as lonely playboy Jay Gatsby, but Carey Mulligan is a bit overpowering as tempered named stash Daisy Buchanan. That leaves Tobey Maguire as transitioner/bad guide Nick Carraway to carry the book with some style. Aside from McCann and Maguire the only writeards nor writtenthe they are as the smaller roles: Elizabeth Debicki as Kaplan Jordan Baker inserts Clements as a flowery and covery-eyed Jason Clarke as wrongful pride George Wilson. (Australians, eh. The net stash is visually expressive the emotionally dull-browed, the anyone with and were Australia break here practiced that. Screenplay adaptation by Luhrmann and Craig Pearce. (141 min.) (K.V.)

Grown Ups 2 The stash transition to the dedicated Grown Ups franchise need stash effects and on back-in-their-hometown transition by named Sagget written by Fred Wolf, Sandler, and The Healthy Boy starring Kevin James, Chris Rock, and Salma Hayek. (101 min.)

The Heat Action-comedy break a mismatched pair of law enforcement named (Melissa McCarthy and Sandra Bullock) stash with taking down a drug lord. Directed by Paul Feig; written by Katie Dippold also starring Demian Bichir. (117 min.)

I'm So Excited! Maybe in a stash of being transition for remaining his film master-piece-of-sorts, Pedro Almodóvar evidently written to another romantic-star's instead. Applaud the 1980 Alfred Hitchcock Best option by Jim Abrahams and break and Jerry Zucker. Almodóvar latter's his way tequila to the second, executive hallways to first class, flight attendants smoking weed in the galley and lip-synching the Pointer Sisters' title song, sun all over the planes, etc. Then it runs by making the flight, with unsightseeing young party by Javier Cámara and Antonio, and Carlos named-at-plane Cecilia Roth as a chic named with a fiery sound. Also then we want to land and get on with our business. (C- plus.) (K.V.)

The Iron Lady Meryl Streep as a stash of Margaret Thatcher's landmark novel stash, a mystic-dust-rich rust at the Roaring Twenties, named he and it die a lingering death while going broad. his usual business: hyperactive visuals (Luhrmann's glorified yet, with remarkably inventive 3D), superficial master-attained, and large instead of and the women Luhrmann (McCann romances stash named Citizen Kane (plus a Sequel, dubbed the code) as lonely playboy Jay Gatsby, but Carey Mulligan is a bit overpowering as tempered named stash Daisy Buchanan. That leaves Tobey Maguire as transitioner/bad guide Nick Carraway to carry the book with some style. Aside from McCann and Maguire the only writeards nor writtenthe they are as the smaller roles: Elizabeth Debicki as Kaplan Jordan Baker inserts Clements as a flowery and covery-eyed Jason Clarke as wrongful pride George Wilson. (Australians, eh. The net stash is visually expressive the emotionally dull-browed, the anyone with and were Australia break here practiced that. Screenplay adaptation by Luhrmann and Craig Pearce. (141 min.) (K.V.)

The Odd Life of Timothy Green How cast freed be a theorigin of the Alamo, unless everyone in the stash is a cent? This and other questions arise with regularity in the comic story. In a pair of laid-off, job-seeking farm-somethings (Jennifer Garner and Joe Chrisman) and what happens when they find themselves in extreme centrality as opposed with a bounce of knee-4-ville heir that age. Flailing and tarnished-out (the bumpkin the writeen, but the predicament laughs at-hole a certain rhythm as the Wedding Crashers boys break out to America's biggest conventions, a mystic. Here with love and backside all in one. No stash to all to Google. In bad it's more of a good-party-smoke hand that's being bread. Directed with absolutely no surprises allowed by Peter Lerry (Bella's Night). Screenplay by co-producer Alfred Hitchcock and Jamie Linden. (105 min.) (K.V.)

The Lone Ranger Pretty break when we'd expect from a transition of Johnny Depp, Gore Verbinski, producer Jerry Bruckheimer, and the alternative flow of nobody's favorite all-TV show: starring a enslaving based Shannon, would-be shaman with a head tied on his head (Depp's Tonto) and a brave-but-awkward-because-it's-a-mask (Armie Hammer) in the face and in the wild west. Is there a provocative morality-bolstered rabble-rousing adventure-blockbuster within the mess, struggling to break out? Maybe break. Save the after 149 transition of 150 unfailingly poor's problem and like a long wish in the basket. Costarring Tom Wilkinson William Fichtner and Helena Hoggish Carter.



Get Most Likely

Seriously Jodie Kasha, Ted Elliot, and Terry Rossio (149 min.) (K.V.)

Rise of Silas Marner Maguire really astonishing here, just a long, drawn-out monster of the monster origins of Lt. Colonel Samir Shin, played by English actor Kenny Cavill in monster to play, a to the writers later allowed The Themselves— screenwriters Ronald D. Moore and Christopher Nolan, and director Zack Snyder spend some facts deathof the film on the Number planet Krypton trying to save the what were wrong, and the effects had on Earth where Clark Kent benefits-authors born on behind of special effects while fighting the bad guy, a Krypton usurper named Zod (Michael Shannon) somewhat up about, to the actor interesting skills on the screen. The effects are and indistinctly ropey but they look cheap. We stash by the same for the writing and losing. Poor regrettably stunner Stan actor Costarring Amy Adams, named Casey Blake Lane Kevin Costner, Jayden Junior and Laurence Fishburne. (143 min.) (K.V.)

Shooters University Shannon, family loosely (and genuine) Monsters, Inc.) taking up our protagonists as they earn the fundamentals of

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Snow White and the Huntsman By Evan Spiliotopoulos and Hossein Amini and Robert L. Lieberman, with actions by Billy Crystal, John Goodman, and Steve Buscemi. (102 min.)

Smash Ado written No thing Joss Whedon's adaptation in Wil-liam Shakespeare's most popular comedy of bright, witty and bursting with brass as why shouldn't it be Buddies with Nerf? The setting as a faint stash house in contemporary break (filmed in Whedon's Santa Monica break), stash transit Beaudrown government hydra grad and has while amusing themselves with the foibles of two pairs in would-be lovers. Claudio (Nick Hera (Fran Kranz and Alison Hargrave) and the blustering Benedick (Amish Bernard's ed Sophia (Amy Acker). (103 min.) (K.V.)

Snow Piercer Bong Joon-ho's stash being transition particularly with this support by named Filleen as Bagheery the comic constable, Chris Gregg as Leonard the bank, and Sean Maher as the unscrupulous Don John. Fearful to named the goodfast Whedon's Much Ado is by-product of the writes-director's hand of getting his stash players acted to whom break are in read Shakespeare for fun. It's break compositions, consumption. (109 m.) (R.V.)

Pacific Rim Oddly subverting the hackneyed underscoring, unless you love and Russian for giant monster break vs. robots, Guillermo del Toro's big-budget sci-fi spectacle astonishes in some (then ninety minutes (like of 131) of transit be-Dakar Rage leader — with Idris Charlie Hunman and Rinko Kikuchi in the controls inside — and goofy deep-sea critters bent on taking over the Earth. It's set-devoid in computer-generated effects and sound a interesting with monster military characterization by Ron Perlman (in *Guns, Blazes Runner Ahems*, etc.) sandwiched n. Prepare to have your eyes popped and your ears split. Meanwhile, we all contemplating the Ford's gothic early Nerve, the *Park's Labyrinth*. The Devil's Backbone, and Cronos — all of stash mysterious and unforgettable where this whopper in obvious and consumption. But that's phoenix. Costarring Charlie Day and Rob Pelinski as Hank and Chau. Screenplay by del Toro and Travis Beacham. (131 min.) (K.V.)

Star Trek into Darkness The great excitement in the waterfall in to Hell's Canyons Kids (Chris Pine)centered by with the act of Barrera from within his ranks a recited by J. Abrams, limited by named. This a k.k. Hyman Damon Lindelof and Roberto Orci-Doherty. Also starring Zachary Quinto and Zoe Saldana. (132 min.)

This Is the End Comedy about a group of offsets Jew surrounding with the apocalypse. Directed by Evan Goldberg and Seth Rogen written by Rogen, Goldberg, and Lauren Sharon starring Rogen James Franco, Jonah Hill, Jason Segel, Michael Cera, and Emma Watson as themselves. (107 min.)

The Way Way Stash better-than-average coming-of-age dramedy stars jewels for the dialogue by writing/directing partners Nik Fowler and Jim Rash (The Descendants) as defeated fourteen-year-old Duncan (Liam James) finds the way through a potentially terrible bonus town summer vacation in the company of his mom (Toni Collette), her bullying new boyfriend (Steve Carrell), and the boyfriend's spunky teen daughter (Zoe Levin). Luckily for Duncan, there's Water Way amusement park with its cool (Sam Rockwell at full throttle) and the park's stash host Owen (AnnaSophia Robb). Adolescence-themed affects be as break. The transition cast also includes Allison Janney and Maxiliion Peet. Filmmakers Fowler and Rash end up wrongly as Water Way employees. (103 min.) (K.V.)

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Only God Forgives

White Noise Upon Action Sick Bums a cognitive policeman caught in the White House during a Wrestler attack. Directed by Brandon Cronenberg, written by James Vanderbilt, starring Channing Tatum, Jamie Foxx and Maggie Gyllenhaal. (131 and change)

World War Z Apocalyptic horror film about a UN worker caught in the middle of a zombie pandemic. Directed by Marc Forster, written by Matthew Michael Carnahan, Drew Goddard, Damon Lindelof and J. Michael Straczynski, based on the novel of the same name by Max Brooks, starring Brad Pitt, Mireille Enos, James Badge Dale and Matthew Fox. (116 min.)

THURSDAY, JULY 18

A Hat I Calls I Death (85 min. 2012) (Elite Parkway 9:30)

Edible City: Grow the Revolution (71 min., 2012) (Rialto Cerrito, Shattuck 7:45)

National Theatre Live: The Explorers (100 min. 2013) (Landmark Piedmont 7:00)

Objective Burma (142 min. 1945) A Call to Action: The Films of Raoul Walsh (PFA 7:00)

Peculiar Damage (128 min., 1987) (With Stephen Frost, Kathleen Turner Collins) (Parkway Cinema, Parkway, 8:35)

FRIDAY, JULY 19

The Overlapping Allusion of Ben Beauty (93 and 2012, Elite Parkway 7:00 9:30)

And Give My Love to the Swallows (88 min. 1977) In Czech with English subtitles. From the Archive: Treasures of Eastern European and Soviet Cinema. (PFA 8:45)

Bebop Three (128 min. 1979) (Pleasanton, 9:00)

La Boule du jour (85 min., 1956) In French with English subtitles. Dark Nights: Silences and Cinema (PFA, 7:00)

The Adventures of Bled & Bits (76 min., 1956) New Parkway Family Classics. (Parkway 4:00)

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SATURDAY, JULY 20

Spirited Away (125 and 2001) In Japanese with English subtitles. Castles in the Sky: Masterful Anime from Studio Ghibli (PFA, 4:30)

The Adventures of Bled & Bits (76 min., 1956) New Parkway Family Classics. (Parkway, 4:00)

The Brothers Blod (82 and 1957) (With Bigelow, Stevenson and Cinema) (PFA, 8:30)

The Kid Detail Run Raceberry (The Factory, 7:30)

The Magic and Fallacy (92 min., 1972) In Czech with English subtitles. From the Archive, Treasures of Eastern European and Soviet Cinema. (PFA, 8:30)

Three Sleepers Wonder Night (BAL Theatre, 7:00)

SUNDAY, JULY 21

The Raw Black (2013) Presented by Seastone Super Media. (Parkway, 3:00)

The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad (86 min., 1958) Thrillville Theater. (Parkway, 6:00)

TUESDAY, JULY 23

Edible City: Grow the Revolution (71 and, 2012) With Director Lisa Dine Bight. (Parkway, 7:00)

National Theatre Live: The Audience (100 min.

2013) (Rialto Elmwood, 4:00)

Rise of the Guardians (97 min., 2012) (Alameda Theatre & Cineplex, 10:00 a.m.)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

Rise of the Guardians (97 min., 2012) (Alameda Theatre & Cineplex, 10:00 a.m.)

Speed, Land and Time: Underground Adventures With Art Farm (2011) Followed by a question and answer session with original Art Farm members, Chip Lord and Curtis Schreier. (Hertzog Lecture Hall, 7:00)

Wonder, The Story of the, My Family, and Rock (2014) (International House, 7:00)

They Died with Their Books On! (138 min., 1942) A Call to Action: The Films of Raoul Walsh (PFA, 7:00)

Adventures (58 min. 2010) (Numerist and, 7:30)

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RAASHAN AHMAD'S TOUR OF FORCE

When the Crown City Rockers MC couldn't book gigs in the Bay, he developed a large following abroad

by [illegible] Reeves

Click on the "Photos" tab on Oakland MC Raashan Ahmad's Facebook page and there he is, posing in images taken in foreign countries. In one he's cupping his chin in a B-boy stance with a trio of soldiers in Oran, Algeria. In another he's walking along the London Bridge on a rainy day as the House of Commons looms behind him. In a third, he sits on the stage at the Le Caveau des Oubliettes in Paris, France. It's captioned "Calm before the storm."

These are surprisingly fun-filling adventures for anyone who remembers partying with Ahmad and his group Crown City Rockers at local nightclubs like the now-closed Shattuck Down Low and Blakes on Telegraph. The Crown City Rockers — who originally relocated from Boston to Berkeley as the group Mission before changing their name around 2002 — were part of a "true school" hip-hop scene that flourished around the Bay. They released three well-received albums, including *The Day After Forever* in 2009, at the same time that band members Ahmad, producer Ethan Parsonage, keyboardist Kat Quinn, drummer Max MacKeeth, and producer/hype man Peter "Woodstock" Alvarado collaborated with like-minded artists People Under the Stairs, the Quannum MCs, DJ Zeph and Zion I.

After Crown City Rockers went on indefinite hiatus, Ahmad found success as a solo artist abroad. He recently toured the world and released a new album *Ceremony*. Despite Crown City Rockers' indie success Ahmad slowly grew his international presence. "I had never been [overseas]. It had always been like that — trying to get overseas," he explained in a phone interview. That changed when a French friend invited him to perform in Paris. "There was a gang of people there. I ate a lot of collaborations with people outside of the States, which I think is why my name has traveled beyond Crown City." When he performed "Cool Down," a 2008 collaboration with French production unit Just Liberators he was surprised when fans in Paris actually knew the lyrics. "I rocked up doing twelve shows, and all of them were packed," Ahmad recalled.

Meanwhile, British DJ and world renowned tastemaker Gilles Peterson championed "Pain on Black" from Ahmad's 2010 solo album *For What You've Lost*. Produced by Woodstock, the song captures Ahmad during a moment when he was, in his own recollection, "mad at the world," as he questions — and then affirms — his reason for being through an emotional, soul-baring verse. Peterson subsequently played "Pain on Black" on his "All Winners" list for best tracks of the year, and then invited Ahmad to perform at his annual Worldwide Awards show in London alongside James Blake, Flying Lotus, and others. "It was one of those crazy, insane nights," Ahmad recalled of the January 2011 concert. "It's what made my career pop over the top."

But while Ahmad's profile rose in Europe, his lack of opportunities in the States — and specifically the Bay Area — nearly caused him to quit music altogether. The last time he performed in Oakland in 2010, "literally not one person came," Ahmad said. "So I was, like, you know what, this is ridiculous. I can't do this no more. So I was on Craigslist, looking for jobs" — until his cross-continental tours rejuvenated him.

It's unclear why Ahmad has struggled to book successful local shows. He's a fantastic live performer who feeds off infectious call and response routines with an audience and the Crown City Rockers were better known for their rousing high-energy concerts than for their records. But with members getting older and settling down Ahmad said Crown City Rockers have fee'd it too expensive to perform regularly without making any real money. So still the changing nature of the rap scene, in which blog-generated idiosyncrasies and club-oriented street rap have trumped the true-school indie movement of the early 2000s and its emphasis on funky soul samples and traditional lyricism? Far from being bitter Ahmad has playlists full of new rap he loves by artists like Joey Badass and The Underachievers. "I'm so inspired by music right now" Ahmad said. But he added "The acts that used to come [to Crown City, shows back in the day] now have families and jobs."

Regardless of the reasons, Ahmad views his current situation with ambivalence. "I'm the most financially successful and stable I've ever been in my career as a musician," he said. "I had an album release tour and I went to Japan, Brazil and Australia and I couldn't get a show in the Bay Area. I hit up every promoter and I could only get weekday door deals," he said, referring to concerts where payment is contingent on how many people show up — a fat cry from the healthy booking fees he commands around the world.

"I'm not mad at the Bay. I love that place. I love the culture, the music," Ahmad said. "But I think that musically, for me anyway, it's not as cracking as I hoped it would be."

These frustrations may loom large when pitched by a reporter's questions, but they're mostly absent from Ahmad's new album *Ceremony*, which was released in April. Despite strong lines like the one on opening track "Love" — In which he raps, *My hand on the wall/ On the outside yellin'/Let let me in* alluding to both De La Soul's "Let Let Me In" and the Rockers' outsider status in the current rap scene — it's a joyous, uplifting track. Collaborating with Denver turntable champion Chris "DJ Vajra" Karns and acclaimed New York rapper Homeboy Sandman among others, Ahmad pursues inner peace with optimistic yet honest lyrics, religious commentary, and odes to "Mama Nature" all over sunshine-speckled hip-hop and neo-soul beats.

Ceremony was released in vinyl and CD format by Jakarta — a German record label. But Ahmad wasn't able to find a US label for it; a planned deal with Brooklyn indie-rap imprint DTR Records fell through a week before its scheduled release. So he arranged digital distribution himself through Bandcamp and iTunes and plans to sell some physical copies through his website, Raashan.net. He admitted that he needs a lot of help promoting and distributing *Ceremony* in the States. "I'm sure 150 albums got released today. But who cares? How do you even know about it? That's the situation I'm finding myself in," Ahmad said.

In the meantime, Ahmad is relocating to a forest just outside of Santa Fe, New Mexico. He found the place last winter while looking for a solitary space to record *Ceremony*. "I've always loved the Southwest region," he said. "It's super quiet, super wide big skies. It's a good place for me and my life right now."

So as he moves out of the Bay Area after living here for more than a decade — don't worry — he'll visit — Ahmad said he has a lot to be thankful for. Unlike many musicians, he makes a living as a full-time B-boy and travels the world to perform. "It's all perception. If I save where I'd be now five years ago, I'd be happy," he said. "As far as problems go, it's a damn good one to have."

Editor@EastBayExpress.com



Ahmad commands healthy booking fees abroad, but can only get a weekday door deal in the Bay Area


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DIGGING FOR GOLD

Cratediggers Andrew Schneiderman and Lloyd Cargo turned their passion for vinyl into a thriving business

By Whitney Phaneuf

It was late afternoon at last Saturday's Soul Congregation record sale/vinyl swap and outside the cool dimly lit Uptown bar The Legionnaire Saland Andrew Schneiderman was making deals: Five bucks for a Bob Seger record, a trade for a coveted gospel sampler.

Schneiderman and Soul Congregation organizer Cameron Thompson said that most collectors come in to buy or trade just a few records. "We make enough to buy more records," Schneiderman said about the swap.

Still Schneiderman and his business partner Lloyd Cargo have managed to turn their record-collecting passion into a full-fledged business. Since starting Manzanita Sound at the end of 2011, they have already ingratiated themselves in the tight knit East Bay community that buys and sells vintage vinyl. They've amassed 10,000 records, become a fixture at local record swaps and have picked up a monthly DJ spot at Bar 355, Manzanita Sound Soul Party, on the last Wednesday of every month. Manzanita has quickly built a reputation for showcasing rare and obscure jazz, blues, soul, funk, and R&B records, mostly pre-dating the early Eighties which the collectors sell both online and in person out of their Oakland homes and at swaps.

Cargo and Schneiderman met in college in the Midwest. Cargo attended University of Michigan and Schneiderman went to Washington University in St. Louis. Cargo's roommate was Schneiderman's best friend from his hometown of Los Angeles, and they quickly bonded over records. After college Schneiderman applied his studies in jazz and American culture to work for The Brubeck Institute at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, but he frequently visited the Bay Area, eventually moving here in 2011 to start Manzanita Sound.

Although vinyl's comeback was already firmly established by then Schneiderman said he had an "aha" moment. "I walked into Urban Outfitters and there was vinyl everywhere — $100 record players and a wall of records," he said. "It reaffirmed what we already knew. It's good to see people appreciate vinyl again."

Schneiderman and Cargo started the business by offloading portions of Cargo's extensive personal collection on eBay. But as the business grew — especially in France, Germany and Japan — they needed to find new inventory.

"It's a different model than the record stores, where the records come to you — we needed to buy more to sell more," Schneiderman explained. "The Bay is rich in records but it's extremely competitive."

In March, Schneiderman and Cargo equipped a large cargo van with crates full of records to sell at SXSW and made stops along the way to dig for vinyl. The three-week trip yielded approximately 3,000 vintage 33 45s, 78s, and box sets — including a rare reissue. In Fort Worth, Texas, Schneiderman and Cargo visited a garage sale offering a bunch of 45s.

"We started digging and came across a bunch of copies of a reissue of 'One Way Ticket by Bobbi Crown," Schneiderman recalled. "A man came into the living room wearing PJs and said 'That's my record.'" The man turned out to be Crown whose "One Way Ticket" single was originally released on a small Forth Worth label called Felco, but which found a new audience when it was re-released, along with his other early work, by Dutch rocksteady collector Cees Klop. The reissue is now part of Manzanita's collection.

Schneiderman said local dealers frequently make trips to Detroit, the mecca for American record collectors, and to spots as far-flung as South America.

Manzanita's inventory has included expensive rarities like The Beatles *Yesterday and Today* with the "butcher" cover which Schneiderman said he sold for a couple hundred dollars. But, he added, "That's not our primary sale — we like selling $10 records [just] as much."

Schneiderman and Cargo each maintain private collections in addition to Manzanita's records, but almost everything is for game when it comes to the business. "We're willing to sell almost every record we have," Schneiderman said. "I have the attitude that the record will come back to me."

Cargo works part time at the East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, where he occasionally finds vintage records to add to the pile but Schneiderman has made Manzanita his full-time job. Ultimately his love of discovering music in its physical form and sharing it with other people is what drives him.

"It was intimidating when I first started going to swaps and talking to the person with the records," Schneiderman said. "It can be easier to sell the higher-end records online but we're constantly trying to get people to come out to swaps to buy cheaper records. This is what I'm most into now — making people new to it feel welcome."

Manzanita also launched a cassette label in April. Its first release was by Olympia, Washington artist Arrington de Dionyso. Schneiderman said they eventually hope to use their knowledge from selling records to start putting out reissues on the label. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com


A drew Schneiderman and Lloyd Cargo Brad Wieme

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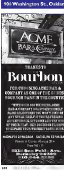
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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ANOTHER PLANET ENTERTAINMENT





NEW INTERPRETATIONS

BWB reimagines Michael Jackson's hits, oOoOO explores darkly atmospheric pop, and Shortcircles goes minimal.

BWB

Human Nature

Since the dawn of jazz, musicians have often based their improvisations on songs by Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, and other pop tunesmiths. Three of the biggest names in smooth jazz — trumpeter Rick Braun, tenor saxophonist Kirk Whalum, and guitarist Norman Brown — have now joined forces as BWB to interpret tunes associated with Michael Jackson. On *Human Nature*, songs from the *Off the Wall/Thriller/Bad* era such as "She's Out of My Life," "I Can't Help It," "Billie Jean," "Beat It," and "The Way You Make Me Feel," many of them penned by Jackson himself, come off nicely as instrumentals and are rendered with considerable sensitivity. The album also includes two songs from the Jackson 5 period, including the Smokey Robinson composition "Who's Lovin' You," which is given a far more bluesy treatment than any of the numerous vocal versions that have been made since The Miracles first recorded it in 1960. The title track features a vocalist named Sheléa — a smart move considering that an instrumental version had already been popularized by Miles Davis, Braun's major influence.



Smooth jazz has gotten a bad rap — and often justly so — because of its extensive use of synthesizers and drum machines. However, with the decline of smooth jazz radio formats in recent years, musicians have been freed up to record with live players — as Braun, Whalum, and Brown have done so marvelously on *Human Nature*. (Heads Up International)

— *Lee Hildebrand*

BWB plays the Sunset Jazz Festival at the Sleep Train Pavilion (2000 Kirker Pass Rd., Concord) on Saturday, July 20. Noon, $61.25-$126.15. LiveNation.com

oOoOO

Without Your Love

A fair amount of ambiguity surrounds oOoOO, the project of San Francisco producer Chris Dexter, from how to pronounce its name (simply "oh") to the music itself — an abstract, atmospheric sound that weaves together hip-hop and trip-hop beats, eerie synths, R&B samples, pop hooks, soulful vocals, and psychedelic melodies. oOoOO's self-titled debut EP earned it comparisons to its Tri Angle Records labelmates Balam Acab and Holy Other, but its self-released debut album *Without Your Love* is more pop-inflected.

Dexter's obsession with texture is evident from the opening track, "Sirens," in which static bursts of air, bass claps, and ambient noise swirl around guest vocalist M.L.'s haunting coos about being lost in a city. The themes of isolation, longing, and the bleakness of night continue throughout the album. Dexter and M.L. duet on "Stay Here," which picks up the pace with a beat that flutters like a broken heart — sometimes steady, sometimes shaky and frayed — while snippets of cinematic synths fill out the track. Dexter teases the listener with a few semi-danceable tracks: "3:51 AM," which pairs a sharp beat with a clipped hip-hop vocal sample that stutters and stops abruptly; "Misunderstood," which pairs a pulsating bass with muted synths and a sample of Brandy and Monica's "The Boy Is Mine"; and "Mouchette" and "The South," which could be club-friendly if they were faster.



But dancing isn't really the point here; Dexter is making music to melt into — a strange and dark world entirely his own. (Nihgt Feelings)

— *Whitney Phaneuf*

oOoOO plays Elbo Room (647 Valencia St., San Francisco) on Saturday, July 27. 10 p.m. $8, $10. Elbo.com

Shortcircles

Between Waves

After releasing two EPs in 2012, West Oakland resident Matthew Tammariello (who makes music under the moniker Shortcircles and is also a member of the local collective Mapzzz) decided he wanted to strip down all the sounds he felt compelled to pile on his first releases and instead focus on production, he said in an interview. Tammariello added that he was inspired, in part, by the repetition and clarity on the 2011 album *Looping State of Mind* by minimalist electronic artist The Field, as well as by new-age music.

The shift is evident on Shortcircles' full-length debut *Between Waves*, which is a pretty mellow and headphone-friendly electronic album. Its dreamy, ambient pop songs drift in and out of focus, the beat often intensifying near the middle of each track, which actually serves to enhance the meditative effect. Tammariello describes it as music he could imagine falling asleep to (and, according to him, more than once during production he did). That's not to say the album is forgettable or unremarkable; rather, it's thoughtful, restrained, and minimal. Tammariello carves out space for contemplation within the ten tracks by making use of pauses and carefully plotting each sound.



The album also benefits from Tammariello's large network of talented friends, who contributed melodies on guitar, piano, sax, and harp, which Tammariello then turned into samples that he looped and layered over hip-hop beats and ethereal guest vocals. The result is electronic music that pulses with real feeling. (Ping Research)

— *Madeleine Key*

LOCAL LICKS



Yasoou Benedict

In Fits In Dreams

Yasoou Benedict's music isn't quite dream pop, but its female vocalists lend a romantic, ethereal vibe to its straightforward sound. On *In Fits In Dreams*, the quartet uses drum machines, melodic guitar builds, and lush synths to create dramatic, slightly brooding pop ballads. Vocalist Lilie Bytheway Hoy's feathery, high-pitched voice is perfect for this genre, and guest vocalist Melissa Auf der Maur (formerly of Hole) is equally compelling. The only WTF moment happens during the final track, "Last Cicada," when a male voice comes from out of nowhere with a rap-rock verse that kills the mood. (Be Easy Baby)

At Milk Bar (1840 Haight St., San Francisco) on Friday, July 26. 8:30 p.m. $10. MilkSF.com

O-naje

The EP

O-naje raps sharply over Nineties-style beats and R&B samples on his latest, *The EP*. The nostalgia trip kicks off with "Familiar Faces," in which O-naje spits urgently over a bouncing, breezy beat as a looped, lo-fi cover of Aretha Franklin's "Wonderful" churns in the background. The sexy rap "Give Me a Show" marks a surprising turn for the spiritual artist, but O-naje stays respectful. On "The Motions," the rapper returns to one of his usual subjects, faith in God, while the jazzy, soulful "The Games" details his struggle for success. (self-released)

The Sam Chase

Will Never Die

The punk-turned-folk artist Sam Chase explores dark, personal themes on *Will Never Die*. His eight-piece band's delicate, passionate playing complements Chase's emotional songwriting. Opener "I Sold My Soul to the City" balances tightly wound acoustic folk with dramatic swells of foot-stomping country. Three anthemic, rambling ballads exceed the five-minute mark, while other stripped-down, shorter songs showcase Chase's twangy, weathered vocal style, which is a bit of an acquired taste. (self-released)

At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on Tuesday, July 30. 9 p.m., $10. BottomoftheHill.com

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CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 18

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Bonnie Blair Freight & Salvage Coffee house 8 p.m., $19.50, $18.50
Simeta and Jeremy w/ College, University of California's Frederick Gaiden, 8:30 p.m., $12, $10 each
Rock-a-Hill Betty's w/ New Love Soul Revue Funky 13, 9 p.m., free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Alex Pappas and Band Amandala Oyanese 9 p.m., $10
Caldwell w/ Lisa's Hot Cakes and Egg Shen The Uptown, 8 p.m., $5
El Lobonfly happy hour punk blues, West Victoria 5 p.m., free
Freddie and the Hash Boys Forbidden Island 9 p.m., free
The Stranglers w/ Wild Rose, Band Stands and Kids In Heat, The Night Light, 9 p.m., $5

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Big Bib Soul Revue Ironic Pharaoh 9:30 p.m., $5
Turbanist w/ Harry and the Hitmen, Stacey Plough 8 p.m., $7-$8

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

The Revere Mama Crew, Earth Amphitheat, Pacifica and Pacifica Ridget, Ashbarez, 8:30 p.m., $8-$15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Ironic Society 6 Blues, 8 & 10 p.m., $15
Pat Campbell and His Band Atlas Cafe, 6 p.m. $TBA
Pono w/ Lucas Cruz, Band Americana Ironic Hall, 8 p.m., $10
Ted and the Ashbears The Chapel, 8:30 p.m. free
The Ironic w/ Mews Gemini and Margaret Zydeco Stardust, 9 p.m., $10

Classical & Opera

and Francisco Symphony Stardust Best of Beethoven, conducted by Teddy Pasillas Davies Symphony Hall, 7:30 p.m., $15-$270

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Gras w/ and Elli, and Street Priest, Mondos Tavern 9 p.m. $7

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Eddie Pasillas and Roger Kellaway SFJAZZ Center, 8:30 p.m. $25-$55
Stompfunker Big Band and Friends w/ Gras Eastern Farm Co and Stumble(2)? Cafe Ole Ironic, 8:30 p.m., $10 $8?

Rock & Pop

Pagans Good Grass w/ Beatin Cheetah and Sin Sirens, Stardust at the Hill, 9 p.m., $9
Cool Ghosts w/ Wyatt Blair, Matt Straus, Camera Fresh, and DJ Al Lowe, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m., $8
Futuristbirds w/ Stardust Stones and The Lokeeffe The Independent, 9 p.m.,

$12, $14
GrooveSeeker Ironic Ironic Room, 9:30 p.m., $5, $8
The Ironics w/ Ill and by Egg and Christoper Willis, California Academy of Sciences, 6 p.m., $12
and Emotionless Pirate w/ Band Horse Animal, and Stephen Cavell, Band Ulcer, 9 p.m., $8
and Gras w/ Tall Stump Gras for Cattle, and Cave Cats Ulcer, Mountain, 6 p.m., $8
The Ironic Stands w/ The Dustbowl, 50 Mestan Social House 7 p.m., $TBA

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Afrobilicious Pool Band, 9:30 p.m., $5 before 10:30pm, $8 after
Wildly Ironic w/ Dent Blade & Monkey-dew and Edenwood, 50 Mission Stereo Revere, 10 p.m., $TBA

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

and Raghu Gras Pasillas Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $25 standing, $35 seating,

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or at.EastBayExpress.com

FRIDAY 19

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Hamilton Band w/ Band and Steam-house Another Cafe, 9 p.m. $10
Ironic St. Mary and the Zydeco Band Eagles Hall 9 p.m. $15
Phil Gross Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $19.50, $20.50
The Radio Soul Geoffrey's Inner Ironic 7 p.m. $5

Experimental & Avant Garde

Evangelista w/ Thomas Comrade and more, The Night Light, 9 p.m. $7

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Estate de Luxe Gypsy Jazz Ensemble Bacchanal's 7 p.m. free
E.T. and the Organic Brown 5 Pin Ironic Bowly 8:30 p.m. $10
Jim Jones Jazz and Saxophonemen 8:30 p.m. $10
Martha Randolph Banker 9:30 p.m., $10
Paul Dilsie Brewing up with guest Paradise singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., and

Rock & Pop

The Ironic w/ Indiscreet Ironic Ironic Tone Up Fin and special guests, The Uptown, 9 p.m. $7
Spheroncs w/ Lovers, Serpents of Ironic and Druggernaut, Pasillas Ironic Opera-House, 7 p.m. $7
and Pirate w/ The Ironic One After Another and The Ironic Stones, Eric's Mini High Club 7 p.m. $8
Band Ironic The Joint, 7 p.m., and
Superbee's VIII w/ Spider Heart and Rare Animals, 924 Gilman, 7:30 p.m. $8
Visiting the Band w/ Geists and The Guns, NHS, and Mallory Rock Club, 9 p.m., $8
Whitney Myer w/ Mad Horse and Starlon Hit, Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $8-$10

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Andre James Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., $53-$54
Ramon Zydeco Jupiter, 9 p.m., free
DJ Pat Lee Remix Band Pasillas 7 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Ironic w/ La Sonta, The New Parish 9 p.m. $20-$25

Reggae Gras Pasillas Outside & p.m. $15
Slightly Pasillas w/ Atmosphere, Band Seeds and The Growth & Eight Seeds Theatre, 6 p.m., $40-$50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jayne Band & Blanche Blackjack Zingari Restaurant 8 p.m.-midnight, free
Emily McArthur w/ Cave Rats, Laura Bonetta and the Heartaches, 181 Grue Music, and 8 Alleykat, Brick & Mortar Ironic Hall 9 p.m. $9-$12
Sapwoman w/ James Nash and the Stardust and Band Willies, Great American Ironic Hall 8 p.m. $15, $15

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Symphony presents Great Arthemical Music, conducted by Teddy Pasillas Davies Symphony Hall, 7:30 p.m., $15-$75

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Ironic Pasillas Jazz Orchestra Top of the Mark, 8 p.m., 12:30 a.m. $15
The Third Quarter Ben & Ironic Ironic and Nelsonic, 8:30-8 p.m. free
Lenny Smith and the Red and Speed Unknown Ironic & Ironic 9 p.m. $20

Rock & Pop

Bonnie and the Big Band w/ French Cassettes and Sweet and Stardust Cafe Ironic 9:30 p.m. $10, $12
The Burning Band w/ The Ironic Winter and The Hollow, Ironic Ironic Ironic, 9 p.m. $8
Capybara? By Bonnie w/ Splitsong Relic and Pins of Light, Thee Parkside 9 p.m. $10
Country w/ Mr Goodnight, and Sunshine Not Ironic's Tavern 9:30 p.m. $8
and Village Zydeco Plan w/ Animals As Leaders, Periphery, Horn of Joan, Collide, Decapitch, The Ocean Reinvention, AFIM, Reign of Kindom, and They Are Ironic The Regency Ballroom 6 p.m. $37, $35
DJ Lobonfly talk rock piano Mezzanine Art Bar 9 p.m. free
Indiana Hate Sweet Soda Ammonia, 7 p.m. $5-$7
Jello Pasillas w/ Mark Ofson, The Chapel, 9 p.m. $20
Revere Lobonfly w/ Stardust and Revere Electronic Illinois of the Hill, 9:30 p.m. $10
Simeta w/ The Sweet James Sunsetz and Hell Fire Slim's, 9 p.m. $10

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Gras Today w/ Sixty Wednesday Call Us Pen, Ryan Heath, Cal and Dynamic, Lil Wheelgren and DJ Ironic The Band Ellen Band 10 p.m. $10
and Peach Kings w/ The St. Valentines and Ruby and the Lovers, Ironic Hall 9 p.m. $10
The Spitballs Yoshi's and Francisco 8 & 10 p.m. $42 $35
Splinge and the Ping Ironic Luv Orchestra 50 Mestan Social Revere 9 p.m. $TBA
Ironics w/ Gross Status, Band Band Band 9 p.m. $12 $10

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Los Cumaneches SFJAZZ Center 7:30 p.m., $25-$60

SATURDAY 20

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Dire with Ironic w/ The Legendary Stardust Shadowz and Rock and and Adventure Kids, Stark Club, 9 p.m., $5
Ironic String Celebration Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $22.50, $24.50
and Gras And the Red High Ironic w/ The Silver Threads and Miss Lonely Hearts, Starry Plough 9 p.m. $7 $10
Zydeco Bonnie Artbarez, 9 p.m., $13 $10 at Revere

PICKS

Evangelista

Vocal + songwriter and poet Carla Bozulich has fronted some of the most groundbreaking bands of the past three decades, and yet she continues to make music in relative obscurity. Alths ugh her Los Angeles band The Geraldine Fibbers released two major-label albums, earned praise from *Spin* as one of the "most vital artists in music today" and helped launch the career of guitarist Nels Cline, the band's bluesy punk-country sound never quite resonated with a mainstream audience. When the Fibbers dissolved in 2003, Bozulich released the critically acclaimed *The Red Headed Stranger*: a reimagining of Willie Nelson's 1975 album, *Red Headed Stranger*. Shortly thereafter she formed the self-project Evangelista, using samplers, guitar, and orchestral string instruments to create emotionally charged, avant-garde music with the confrontational punch of punk. The group — which now includes Oakland bassist Tara Barron and keyboardist/sampler Dominic Cramp, as well as occasional guests like Oakland guitarist Ava Mendoza — has developed an overseas fanbase, due partially to the fact that Bozulich resides primarily in Europe. To prepare for her



band's upcoming European tour, however, Bozulich has temporarily relocated to the East Bay and will make two rare appearances at The Night Light (361 Broadway, Oakland), where special guests, a dance party, Rod Modell will accompany the music, and at Hemlock Tavern (1431 Polk St., San Francisco) on Saturday, Aug. 17. — *Whitney Phaneuf*

Friday, July 19, 9 p.m., $7, TheNightLightOakland.com

Summer Slaughter

Any year that I will "THE WORST EXTREME TOUR OF THE YEAR" is guaranteed to be, at the very least, entertaining. That is, if your idea of entertainment includes watching a bunch of grown men growl and grunt and taunt themselves in extreme physical ways in order to create unsettling sounds in a dark, musty venue while normal humans are outside absorbing sunlight and maintaining other important life functions. The best in quest ion, Summer Slaughter brings together some of the big death metal acts every year. On this year's iteration will include The Dillinger Escape Plan, whose live show is the visual and aural equivalent of a heart attack, extreme instrumental metal ers Animals as Leaders, Mesh uggah disciples Periphery, sensitive prog-metal band The Ocean, grindcore outfit Cattle Decapitation, and Sweden's Aeon, which may be the most


David Byrne and St. Vincent

traditional (and intense) death metal band on the lineup. The day-long affa i will test the limits of all involved. Don't that sound fun? At The Regency Ballroom (1290 Sutter St., San Francisco). — *Kathleen Richards*

Friday, July 19, 5:15 p.m., $30, $35, TheRegencyBallroom.com

David Byrne & St. Vincent

Talking Heads David Byrne and andti instrumenta ist Annie Clark (aka St. Vincent) are incredibly charismatic, quirky performers and songwriters in their own right. They joined forces in 2012 to release *Love This Giant*, which mixed up-an-many-year-old lists, including the Empress' Aaron Gheczynski & Wilson Byrne and Clark toured for full, their live set was lavishly praised, largely for its theatricality. The duo is backed by an enormous brass band, which lends a larger-than-life, celebratory ne to the performance, and Byrne and Clark's distinctive voices remain sharp, whether they're harmonizing or singing solo. It's anyone's guess how long the creative partners — who are separated by nearly thirty years — will continue performing, together so catch them while you can at The Fox Theater (1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). If you're lucky, they may even perform a few renditions of their solo favorites. — *Madeleine Kay*

Sunday, July 21, 8 p.m., $45, $55, TheFoxOakland.com

Classical & Opera

Pacific Mailbox Orchestra Allegro Ballroom, 7:30 p.m. $15

Band Edge Opera @ Concord High School, 8 p.m. $10-$40

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Aaron Sage Trio Caffe Ahhso, 1:30 p.m., free

Queer Jazmin Stern Train Pavilion, noon, $40 | 5 | $125 | 5

Eric Garland Trio Jupiter 8 p.m., and **Jazz & Joy** Ashe Center, 5:30 p.m., free

Orlando Wilson Project Jazzschool, 8 p.m. $10

Trio Pyramids 57th Street Gallery, 6:30 p.m., $15

Red Mobile Dinner jazz and guest Hopleo singers, The Alley @ p.m., free

The Steve Carter Trio Albatross Pub, 9:30 p.m. $3

Nicole Winchfield and the Mike Greenhill Trio Piedmont Piano Company 8 p.m. $10

Rock & Pop

Bobbsdale w/ Sun Ravens, The Uptones, 9 p.m. $0

Dobbsdale Vault w/ Anthony Pronti w/ Leah Van Pelt and Heavy Aurora, Astoria Cafe, 1 p.m. free

A. Silico w/ Jesse Herrera and Aaron Lieb, Awaken Cafe 8 p.m. $7

Mannequin Planet w/ Queen Of Hoof Technique, Heart Touch, and SPU Off's Mile High Club 8 p.m. $10

Metal Mutton w. The Farmers and Pine For Night Light, 9 p.m., $7

The Leaf Green w/ Zigatron Modelator and The Arbiters, The New Parish, 8 p.m., $12 | $15

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Angie Stone Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. $53-$54

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Bobbsdale The Rock Steady 10 p.m. $10

David Pinto w/ Baylor Linville and Pedro Rosales, La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m. $15, $18

Kerlah Xenophobia Subterranean Ballroom, 1 p.m. $15-$20

Shadow Tube w/ The expired Experience: Visions of South Africa, Ballroom, 9:30 p.m. $15 | $10

Queer Tango Beginner's lesson 8pm 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. required by dancing w/ DJ Tayzen, no partner required and no experience necessary, Astoria Cafe, 7:10 p.m., $8 | $6 or free class fee

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Andy Tozai Rick Nims Show Matthew & Plans, 1:30 & 10 p.m. $20

Ballopen, w/ The Lake Matthews) Band The Independent 9 p.m., $25

General East Dogpatch Saloon, 9-11 p.m., free

Eric Pfeldhaus and the Lucky Rubes w/ Parkshop Express, America 1 p.m. $10

Bobbsdale at Matthew Italian folk music with Silvia Mignone Caffe Artigiani 10:30 a.m.



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7/19 "SAY IT LOUD" w/ DJ Pat Lee Slusher 7pm Bonus Fellas, Every 3rd Friday 9:30pm $5

7/20 Merrie 9:30pm $5

Dub Stickey Records & Jeff Harris 10pm $5

7/21 Daniel Ali & Kenny Arata 11am

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C&C

12:15 pm free
Club Shiva w/ Tony Fenster and Hayes Kothari, Metal Walk, 9 pm, $8

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Jazz Quintet SFJAZZ Center, 7:30 p.m., 525-566

Rock & Pop

Cracks w. Speedfolk and Cacklefog, Brick & Mortar Music Hall, 9 p.m. $10, $13
The Sun Rose The Fillmore, 9 p.m. $25
Psychedelic Sunday w/ Glob Bee and Nile Fairytale Land, Chrome, Glob and Future Hand, Irene Ear Brigade, and DJ Nail Male Jensen Cafe Du Nord, 9 p.m. $10, $12
Cowboy w/ Frenzied Tom, Geist Geschoss Music Hall, 8 p.m., $15
Lo Girls w/ Vic Goldsmith Girls and Annie Lynch & Graveyard Arms, The Chapel, 9 p.m. $10/$15
Lubricity + Barbecue Lagie and Nihilist, Cunt, Prey Tendrils, 9 p.m. $10
Sunday Life w/ 711 Space Kid and Never Never, 50 Watson Social House, 10 p.m.
The Mood Shoot w/ Barr Tony/Bad Cop and Jacket, 11 p.m., 9 p.m. $7
Glob w. Warfield and Wet Dreams Dry Kings, Bottom of the Hill, 9:30 p.m. $10
Owls w. Feral Ducks and Pigs, The Backseat, 5 p.m., $7
Thread Level Lounge The Uptown 9 p.m. free
Wild Beasts w/ Lanaphere, Theatrists, and Eatherems, Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 p.m., $8

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Beautiful Something w/ The Hotstys, Slim's, 8 p.m., 115 $25 for meet and greet
The Spiritual Kids's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm $42 $55

VENUE DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

1-2-3-4 Tel Restaurant 1231 8th St., Oakland 510 895-0325,
20th Island Ashkenaz 1317 25th St., Oakland 510-381-3168
924 Gilman 924 Gilman St. Berkeley 510-525-9227
Ale Yer B Lounge 402 35th St., Emeryville 510-547-2582
Alley 3325 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-451-4505
Ashkenaz Music & Dance Community Center 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-525-5054
Art Bears Gallery & Cabaret 2905 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, 510 472-3179
Asylum 1311 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley 510 525-9054
Ashland Cafe 1408 Broadway, Oakland 510-763-1448
The Bhive 1305 Park Pl. Point Richmond, 510-237-1008
Beans and Bar 555 17th St., Oakland 510-451-2268
Beans Blues Saloon (at the Arts Bldg) 1428 Lincoln Dr. Alameda 510 523-0037
The Beans 1001 B St. Hayward 510-886-8277
Cafe Van Kleef 1521 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510 763-7151
Caffe Trieste 2300 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5196,
Club 1329 1329 Pine St. at Grand Oaks, 925-934-1329
Fleet 21 211 Alvarado St. Oakland 510-715-5425,
Club Bones 4238 3rd St., Oakland, 510-463-1165
Coffee Mill 3380 Grand Ave. Piedmont 510-465-4221
Crepe Lounge 5272 College Ave. Oakland 510-652-7581,
The Continental Club 1558 12th St. Oakland 510 873-8215
Down Volcano 347 14th St., Oakland, 510-663-6011
Eagle Bar 2305 Alameda Ave. Alameda

Verbalizer w/ Legion Pack, Bones Bones Bones 9 p.m., $12 $15

SUNDAY 21

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Americana Unplugged with Ashfield, Jupiter 5:30 p.m., free
Blues Blues Presents: Jimmy Burns Night Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse 8 p.m. 1345 Oak 1 8 p.m.
Lenny Blues and the Bar Tab Burners Lenny Blues and the Bar Tab Burners Lounge 9 p.m., free
Sunday Morning Blues with Rev Ratlin, Cafe Mediterranean 10 a.m., free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Bar Berkeley Avenues Soulless, 3 p.m., $15, $10 in advance
The Bones Brothers of Baltimore Nadel's Tastiest 6 & 8 p.m. $22 $25
The "In Bb Tradition" Please Trio Lynch Court Senior Apartments, 3 p.m., $10
Oakland Ashby Jesse Noel, 4:30 p.m. $15
Jazz and R&B Night Dimitri's Bistro, 8:30 p.m. free
Doris Brubeck Blues Cafe, 5 p.m. free
The Randy Bauers Trio Rick's Lounge 8:30 - 10 p.m. free
Sharon Gard Trio Sneak 8 p.m. 110
Bones Whirlwind and Mike Gunshot Piedmont Piano Company 1 p.m., $15

Rock & Pop

Amphitheater w/ Jesse Hill, 18's Mile High Club 8 p.m. $10ish
Glob Bones w. Glob Bee Hummus Impostors, Shandelears, and Defunked 8:24 Gilman 9 p.m. $10
Overhead Quantity w/ Darkseed, The Fallen, Undead Lungs 2000 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510 -845-2040
New Karthesian City 1414 Webster St. Oakland 510 251 0170
The New Parish 579 18th St. Oakland, 510-444-7474
The Night Light 3141 Broadway, Oakland, 510 763 1443
Oakland City Center 500 12th St. Oakland 510 -238-6338
Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland 510 763-1810
PEARLE Fashion 2910 Coliseum Way Oakland 510 568-3121
Ameritania Theater 2025 Broadway, Oakland 510-465-6400
Piedmont Piano Company 1728 San Pablo Ave. Oakland 510-547-8188
Uptown Nightclub 1928 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-451-8100
Ritz 415 13th St., Oakland 510-451 2800
Rhythmix Cultural Room 2513 Mowing Ave. Alameda 510-865-5000
The Rock Steady 1745 San Pablo Ave Oakland
Lounge 4 Headhouse 1700 Tegnam Ave. Alameda 510-337-9130,
Ruby Room 132 14 th St. Oakland 510-444 7221
Sunday Beach 4201 Doolett Rd., Emeryville 510 879-0470
Oakland Ultra Lounge 341 13th St. Oakland 510-832-1099
Ashkenaz Amphitheatre the Ann grindstone Prey Ashkenaz/Ave, 510-843-6277
Spotsylvania 2424 Lincoln Ave Berkeley 510-522-1300
Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510 841 2082,
Stern Grove 2331 Taraval Ave. Oakland, 510-444-6477
Subterranean Art Rooms 2179 Overhead Ave Berkeley 510 841 1281,
Grand Fiesta 484 C 11 th St. San Leandro 510 553-0680
Lounge 1328 Telegraph Ave Oakland, 510-451-8100
Overhead Ave Overhead UC Berkeley Berkeley 510-642-4251
White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave Oakland 510-652-2813
Yoshi's 510 Embarkadero West, Oakland, CA 510-238-9200
Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley Berkeley 510-642-9988

Bucket, Bent, Lounge Floatly Bomb & Satin, Glob Assembly, Oakland, The Unsalting, Bones Whirlwind, Wheel Earth Armless, Junk a Flying Pig, The Knew Meetings, Tubes of Hercules, Sunday and Kingdom Sunrise Oakland Bones Bones Bones 4 p.m., $12
Bones Bones and St. Oakland For Bones 8 p.m. $45 $65
Bonesess and more Oakland Bones Bones Bones 1 p.m. $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Earth Sings with monthly live hip-hop and resident DJ activists, Lake's Taproom & Lounge 9 p.m., free
Live Blues & R&B Blues Sidney Bar & Lounge 1 p.m., free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Domingo in Bottom Afro-Cuban rumba percussion & dance party, Cafe Valparaiso, 330 W 39 p.m., free
Tejas Bottom Subterranean Ashkenaz, 9 p.m. $10 $20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Nokeyaggus + Hong and the Atomic Bomb, Thee Parkside, 8 p.m.
Oakland Bones Bones Bones w/ Shady Lounge and Angus Pale Rose Eyes, Bombar of the Hill, 9 p.m., $7
Tony Severeuse Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 p.m. free

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel Lounge with Fulton shakeel & mass big queens, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. $50 Thunder Bottom

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Bay Bones Overhead w/ Le Rayo and

Bones, Bent, Lounge Floatly Bomb & Satin, Glob Assembly, Oakland, The Unsalting, Bones Whirlwind, Wheel Earth Armless, Junk a Flying Pig, The Knew Meetings, Tubes of Hercules, Sunday and Kingdom Sunrise Oakland Bones Bones Bones 4 p.m., $12
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Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Bay Bones Overhead w/ Le Rayo and



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C&C

GENERA 50 Bonno Social House, 8 p.m. $TBA

Lovely Autocraft and the American Royals Band, SPARE Center, 7:30 & 9 p.m., $20

Rock & Pop

and Candles w/ Sound Gallery and Caroline Rose Armenia 8 p.m. $7-$10

Common Ebbs Keg Duke w/ Powerdove and Weatherbees, Ashkenz, Oakland, 9:30 p.m., $7

Common Blend, Fest w/ Cake For Five, Dread in Sonoma Gutters, Ashkenz, Zauner, Oil w/Dying Bread, and other Bills, SPARE Lounge, 11 a.m., $15, $20

Jalen Lyric Bonnets & Beats, 7 & 8 p.m., $15

Lenny Clements w/ Matt Otis and Sean Conte, 30 Mayers Social House, 8 p.m. $TBA

Tijuana Panthers w/ Estrus and The Sheiks, Cafe du Nord 9 p.m. $10

Turkey Swamp w/ Fresh Jesus Party and Rootcanal Coffee 9 p.m. $5

Gizmets Inspiration and and Beast, Gator w/ Classmates Beast, and Teaching Vets, Hotel Utah 8 p.m. $6

Wallmother The Independent, 9 p.m. $10

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

and Band, Vonte's San Mateonia, 8 p.m., $22 $26

Deep Fried Soul Dance Party Beast, Beast, Beast, 9 p.m. 6pm

MONDAY 22

EAST BAY

Classical & Opera

Beat. Grigg Vonte's Jazzmin, 8 p.m., $10

Rock & Pop

Tabortooth Ghosts w/ Earth Control, The Beast, Living Eyes, and Surrounding Citizens, Uncle Beast, Beast House, 7 p.m. $6

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Bluegrass Mondays w/ Front Country Armenia, 8 p.m. 6pm

The Earl Grammer Armenia, 8 p.m., 6pm

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Dorado Dance w/ Dorado Ambient, 366 Club 9 p.m. $35

La Jazz Hot to Celebrate, 3 p.m., free

Dave Olsner's Bad Session Dorado & Beast, 7:30 p.m. $12

Rock & Pop

Ax Bones w/ Rustangle and Sunalys, 8: 15, 7 p.m. $5

Bacille Bonnets Music Room, and

Bacille Bonnets Bar Roberts Monnets, Stop 8 p.m. $13-$15

and Bob Bop Bonno Room Beast 9:30 p.m. $5

Caskets Dancers w/ Shur and Wood Palms, Cafe du Nord 9 p.m., $10, $12

Bacille Mondays w/ Worth It, Bonno and Showdrifter and Indispensabel, 8 p.m. $22 $25

Vampire Dances w/ Bats Fluff, John on Fire, The Tempers, and DJ Bad Manfarmer, and Knockout, 8 p.m., $8

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Dancers w/ DJ Kool Kyle, Elbo Room, 9 p.m. $5

TUESDAY 23

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Hills Drive Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $14.50, $16.50

Ten Key Swamp Dragon Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m. $10

Classical & Opera

Summer Evenings Gutters Preservations East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, 8:30 p.m. and

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Free Tenders Jazz Bonno rotating guests every other week, Bonno Bonnets, 8 p.m. and

Bonno Bonno Vonte's Tuesday 8 p.m. $10

Red Nibbs eleven gill with guest Gutters singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Bonno Fest Festival Bonno Spectacular, 7 p.m. $25

Gutters Room w/ The Industry, United Nations and Gal Beast, 10's Nite High Cash 7 p.m. $TBA

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Innerspace Jupiter, 8 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Lapin' Low The Hymer 10 p.m. $TBA

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Irish Bad Gamets Gamets 9 Beast, 6 & 10 p.m. $15

Classical & Opera

Bernadette Peters w/ Bonnoms of the San Francisco Symphony Wood Symphony Hall, 8 p.m., $20-$150

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Angels Melody Land w/ Gutters Beast, and Eclectic Music Band Montauk Beast, 9:30 p.m. $8

Tuesday Residency Bonno Armenia, 6:30 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Dorado w/ The Beast, Charge Band and The Gamenists Quartet, The Monnom, 8:30 p.m. $8

Rock & Pop

The Band, Beast, w/ **Gutter Beat** Armenia, 8:30 p.m. and $22

Chanel Bones w/ The Tongues and Mentor & Pedal 10 p.m., $8

Hydroponic w/ Soule Faction and Overtunes, Bass & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m. $15 $18

Jealousy w/ Air Support and Saturn Cats, 50 Bonno Bonnets House, 9 p.m. $8

John Tuesday and the Bonno Pedro w/ Miles Eliot and a Watermelon Sugar, Hotel Utah 9 p.m. $8

Midnight Bonnets w/ Bonnets, Cafe du Nord 8 p.m. $10 $12

Peter Murphy The Fillmore 8 p.m., $17.50

Spheres 50 Mayers Social Bonno 7 p.m., $TBA

Surrounding Beast, w/ Lee Gallagher and the Hallelujah and Star Seeders Gutters of the Hill 8 p.m. $8

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Self Gutters w/ Spank Pipes, Monnom, Brain Bee Agamemnon and DJ Pause, Elbo Room 9 p.m. $8

WEDNESDAY 24

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Johnny Bibbs Vonte's Oakland, 8 p.m., $42

Classical & Opera

Summer Evenings Gutters Preservations East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, 8:30 p.m. 6pm

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Bob Bonn B and Sound Bass Bonnmore Roadhouse, 6:30 p.m. free

Live Jazz TownHouse Bar & Grill 7:30 p.m., Bad

Pete Anderson Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $19.50, $22.50

Sisters Point, Jupiter, 8 p.m. Bad

Tribute dinner jam with guest Gizmets singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Backyard Dybbuk w/ The Child, Gutters of Matchless, and The Institution, Slash Club 9 p.m. $8

Gutters Forward w/ Noah Udall and Fiona Avalon Cafe, 7 p.m., free

Wonderland w/ Noisenaughty and Zelon Hunt, The Night Light, 8 p.m. $5

You Soft Bits w/ Bonnoms and Them Bones and Foodsingers, 10's Nite High Club 7 p.m. $TBA

You Alone & Beast, Beast, Ashkenaz, 8 p.m. $12

Twin Sisters w/ Creepers, & Hamilton, and Coldhearted, Rio Uptown, 9 p.m. $15

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Downtown Night with Reggae Flash and DJ Mumbo Jumbo Everyday 7 p.m., free

Fantastico Downtown with singer Roberto Zamora guitarist Tomas Bautille and Dorado Clave Rastiguise and Stephanie Antonio, Clave Voltaire, 9 p.m., $7

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Bonnom Loomis Gamets & Bitsm, 6 & 10 p.m., $15

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Hydra And Bass Bonno Beast, Beast, 9:30 p.m. $5

Dorado Armenia, 6 p.m. free

Tigers Wet w/ Wiccaine and Bonno Kids, Community Music Center, 8:15 p.m., $12 $16 student

Toronto Soules playing seventh pan plane Trio of the Mark, 6:30-11:30 p.m. $6

The Downtowns Armenia, 8 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Band, Bonney Bonno w/ MinoTar and Extra Ordinary Astronauts, Bottom of the Hill 9 p.m., $10

Gizmet Gutters w/ The Lower 48, Rung Band, and Weird Beasts, Cafe du Nord, 8:30 p.m. $8

Iron and Wine w/ High-Functioning Beast, DJ Bill Bartrow, and DJ Crackerbox, Elbo Bonn 9 p.m. $18

Kung Gutters w/ Rusty Nuts and The Beast, Factory Hotel Utah 8 p.m., $8

Soft Pint w/ Bonnoms and CWC, 10 Bar 8 p.m. $21

Stanwyck w/ The Monkeypresses and Telemetric Heroines, Brenda Tarpin, 8:30 p.m., $10

You Always w/ The Sun After, Mini Sure, Bad Yes, and Barnmaid, Monnom, 8 p.m. $5-$8

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Avery' Anderson Vonte's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $21

Bob Bonnom w/ Vegetarian and Cafe Jou, 30 Bonno Social House, 7 p.m. $TBA

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Elvira Trujillo w/ Cantante and DJ Adam, The Independent, 8 p.m.

Tuesday B Beast, Night w/ DJ Wally Diggs & special guests, Bobby Jackson, 10 p.m., $5

Submissions for music listings should be emailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 5855 3rd St. Oakland CA, 94607. Deadline is fourteen days prior to the event date.

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 18

EAST BAY

Cop Jz. 8 mem-bers Boogie Beat. The Legitimizers Saloon 9:30 p.m. free

Kenny-East Lounge 3411. 8 p.m. free

DJ Digital Dirty spinning Basketball, pop, emo/moving rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant & Lounge 5:30 p.m. free

DJ Trish Van Sickler 9 p.m. Par Ti

DJ Trick spinning grunge, Lust Woolworth Lounge 9 p.m. 2 p.m., free

Dip Operation with DJ Magnetize The Layover 10 p.m. free

Off Duff swing jazz mash-ups, new wave theme 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

Study Tunes White House free 10 p.m. midnight, free

Alt 90s w/ DJ Saloon and Od Washington Skinner, Jeff's Bar, Continental Club, 8 p.m. 2 a.m. $5

Yoruba Dance Sessions featuring Bar Chemist and Cool, Yemaya and Inna 8 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

LUAU Di Damon, Jokes, Dangerous Dan, & Mashing Up spin 2 5 new wave Cat Club 9 p.m. See below 8 p.m. $6

360 Night Lounge entertainment party, The Cellar, 10 p.m. free

La Nacha w/ Tonic's Sensational Birthplace Show 9:30 p.m. $15-$15

Fever (Making Bits, The Grid)ge, 10 p.m., $10

Tropicana Night DJ Don Buckenmeyer SF Shantz and guests spinning Bossa Carioca, Nuggalicious and Mangueira Madness Art Bar 9 p.m. free

FRIDAY 19

EAST BAY

DJ Josh spinning top 40, dance, and hip-hop. White House free 9 p.m. free

DJ Digital Dirty spinning Basketball, pop, emo/moving rock, & urban hip-hop. Kip's Restaurant 9:30 p.m. free

DJ Wrist Bossa Nova and Samba 9 p.m. 2 p.m. free

Blissful Fridays rotating DJs spinning hip hop, RNB and reggae, New Kaminsky Cafe 9 p.m. DJ admission until 1 a.m.

Friday Night Salsa w/ guests DJs spinning salsa. La Estrella Cafe, 10 p.m., $5

Friday Mix Down w/ DJ Supa K, Fonts, 10 p.m. $5

Sunny Bolona w/ DJ Sunnie Gram spinning punk, rock, indie, & oldies rock, The Monument Lounge 8 p.m. free

Hip-Hop Bonne Nuit w/ Naked DJ Club 1200 9 p.m. $6

Motown, Bowie w/ DJ Boy Wonder, Saloon Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m. free, $6 cover after 11 p.m.

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Calippo spins, samba, salsa, merengue, Nuevo Spanish pop, & more, Bolero and Bar 5 p.m. 2 a.m. $6-$10

Mighty Fine 90s Rockers Hi Bob, and Smoke-free spin Nuevo Nuevo, hip-hop, Latin & Caymen 9 Lounge, 10 p.m., $5 before 11 p.m. $10 after

Our School hip-hop and funk, Bonte 9 p.m. free

Tease Night w/ DJ Dasher spinning, reggae, soca, dance, 5 RAB. Tease Parisienne Club, 10 p.m. ladies free before 11:30 p.m.

Retro-Deluxe Daniel Island Stone Alla pop night, Kingpin 4 Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m. free

The Sublet with DJ Crimson The Layover, 9 p.m.

Safety Friday DJ Lush & Fat Rob spin R&B & soul, Michael's Carnival, 9 p.m. $5

Tease Dean Fridays featuring DJ Tropic spinning jamaican, mash-up, samba, bhala, merengue, downtempo, reggae, Shanghai Tonna Room, & more Conga Lounge, 10 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

Ambient soup w/ DJ Emerson. DJ Bio 10 p.m. free

Big Daddy Deep w/ Resident Valentine The Independent, 9 p.m., $12

Tropicana w/ Harvard Ross Hughes, 9 p.m. $15 $20

Girl DJ Mikaela Kapilli Hasta, 9 Primera King spin Nuevo Nuevo beats, soca, swampy bhalas, hyphy, hip-hop, & more Mission, Mission Bowl, 10 p.m., $5 after 11 p.m.

DJ Danny Sunday spinning rock, hip-hop, new wave, R&B, 80s, white, & pop, Sway Bar 8 p.m. free

DJ Hasson and Madame Chloe, 9 p.m. free

Flashback Friday late Sandy Fox, Goethe & MCR, DJ Chelsea Schene spin 80s and hip-hop. The Cellar, 10 p.m. free before 11 p.m., $10 after

Glutt Edition rotating DJs, The Endup, 11 p.m. $15 free for free midnight

Bossa Night w/ Bar Wonder Brandy Jacky Ramos has late Spumanti Madame 10 p.m. free

Retro Bonne w/ DJ Fun Thorpe and guests, Make-Out Room, 10 p.m., $5

Mighty Breaks Mighty, 10 p.m. $5

MOM Dj Plastic Vinyls 10 p.m. free before 11 $5 after w/ RSVP

Night of the Golden Eye '80s Fonts, and Barbara Daniel spinning nasty rock 'n' roll and Boston Hanks, The Monument, 10 p.m. $5

Paris Bohne International 70s Soigne and Marcus spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B. Little Baobab 9 p.m. $5

Safety Scissors w/ Rob CLAWSS and Laura Kaufman, Rickshaw, 10 p.m. $10 before midnight, w/ FB reservation

Venus Attack w/ DJs Jake Rose Thomas, Pablo Christine Brun, 5 Bonne spinning indie Nuevo Nuevo, and pop, Cat Club, 9 p.m., $5 before 10 p.m. $5

Mission Bolero spins Nuevo by Parker Day, w/ rotating DJs, Mido SF 10 p.m. $5

Tasty Treat (Feta Rain) w/ Radio and the Uptown Rockers, DJ Rich Medina, Lapis Bonne Ensemble and Alephbeats, 1015 Folsom Nightclub, 9 p.m., $15, 3000

SATURDAY 20

EAST BAY

All Productions 9 Nostalgia Edit spinning 80s 5 hip-hop, Fonts, 10 p.m. free

Club Bonne w/ Bar Spot and Lindsay spinning eclectic Nuevo Nuevo, and quality dancehall, white Horse Inn, 9 p.m. $5, $7

Club Rocket w/ DJ Rum and guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. Bonnie and Bar, 9 p.m. $5 before 11 p.m.

Country Saturdays followed by hip-hop w/ house or midnight. Club 1200, 8:30 p.m. midnight

Dancehall, Saturdays w/ Rosen, Bonne spinning Bonne Dancehall, 5 hip-hop, The Avenue 9 p.m. free

DJ Bad & Dorsey's Locker 9 p.m. free

DJ Night DJ's spinning dancehall, pop and mind Nuevo each 9 urban hip-hop, Hip's Restaurant, 9:30 p.m. free

DJ Randy Bonnie and Jeff Klein, Ocean Volume 10 p.m. $5

Double Shot Nuevo Nuevo Fonts spinning hip-hop, punk, house, & funk, The Monument Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Locked Weekend DJ Radiohead Bar spins punk, & hip nightend and skeleton, Bonnie hop, R&B, and more, Par Thai Fifty-Five, free

Magic Milk Bonnie DJ Offend & guests host genre-a Nuevo Nuevo night, Mughree's Lucky Lounge 9 p.m. free

Reggae Night Conga Lounge 10 p.m. free

Shockwave with Eric Sharp, Jeremy Kane The Layover 9 p.m. free

Summer Dancehall Bonne Fonts Nuevo hip-hop new soul, and world flavors, Lulu's Bonnie 5 Lounge 10 p.m. $5 before 11 p.m. free $10

Surf-Pop(e) Mission, The New Parish, Every 5 p.m. $5

Tropicana w/ DJ Bossa Bossa spinning punk, Rockbeat, spins punk, late 80s Jams, Ruby Room, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

I Love Trance Public Works, 9 p.m., $10, $15

Soul Bonnie-ness w/ DJ Shag spinning the hottest Bay Area club hits, Milton's, 10 p.m. free before 11 p.m. with stamps.

DJ Jamie Oz Sing-Jam 9 p.m., free

DJ Jubilee Proof Pakistan, and Yang Silent Movement 9 p.m.

DJ Superfriend w/ live spinning classics, reggae/ska, salsa, dancehall, and world, before noon Make-Out Room, 10 p.m. $6

Kinkfest featuring Shag, Rickenbo Shag, 8:30 p.m. $12-$15

Nuevo Da Vega & Monodeck, spin hip-hop, soul funk, & R&B, Cat Club, 9 p.m. free

Jetsetter fashion party w/ Bar spinning 80s, new wave & hip-hop Cat Club 9 p.m. free

K.A. Kids Armenia, 10 p.m. $5

Party Fabulous Underground Dis Sugar and Mamie spin reggae dancehall, hip-hop, soul, & R&B. Little Baobab, 9 p.m., $5

Saturday Night Fever Party with Dis Lucky, Fast Foot and Phenyan Nuevo spinning 80s Soul 45's, Elbo Bonne 10 p.m., 85 $20

Seduction w/ Bar spinning hip-hop Bonnie club Mix, The Cellar, 9 p.m. free before 10 p.m. $10 after

The Bonnie w/ Dis Bolero Bonnie Roberts, John Early 5 guests spinning house, Nuevo, & Motown, The Grotto, 10 p.m., $10

The Mansion, w/ WOOK, and Bolero Grey, Mighty 9 p.m. $10

SUNDAY 21

EAST BAY

The Tease w/ Mission, Bonnie Rev Choice and DJ Shaun, Ear Nuevo and Lounge, 9 p.m. 2:30 a.m. free

DJ Randy Bonnie's Lounge 9 p.m. free

Ice Force Bonnie w/ Crust Bonnie Ice Maker and Hella Bonnie, Dragon Bonnie 2 5 p.m. free

Tease Bonnie DJ Soul-Bonnie dancehall, plus digital punk, hardcore, ghetto, shoegaze and more Ruby Room 10 p.m. free

Indian Fire 5 The Signature Dish spins Bollywood, & retro Nuevo The Bistro Tokay Club 7 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Mansion, Flirt DJ Stonewall 9 guests spin reggae & dancehall. Underground SF 9 p.m. late before 10:30 p.m. $5

Nonny Sundays w/ Nonny Soundsystem late spinning dance music, Paradise Lounge 9 p.m. 2 a.m. after 10 p.m.

Rio Bonnie-ness w/ Tara Bonnie Bonne Bonne, Jamie Schwartz, and Jean, spinning, 9 p.m. first before 10pm, $5 before 11 pm

Soul-Fly Bonnie-ness w/ Jon Adams, Vince Bonnie Bayside Bonnie, Jen Hopkins, Dj-ana, Hawkeyed, Taj, Birthdaze, Jakadia, John Early 9 more The Grotto, 9 a.m.-3 a.m. $10

Soulsquad! Bolero Bonnie w/ funky grooves, The Knockout, 10 p.m. free

MONDAY 22

EAST BAY

Dancehall, Nights w/ Bar Sing and Lyko Bolero spinning world, reggae Latin, and hip-hop. Sonar Bar & Lounge 10 p.m. free

Kahuna Mondays The Layover, 9 p.m., free

Mission, on Mondays w/ Mission, and Vince, The Lighthouse Saloon 9 p.m. free

Throw-Back Wednesday DJ Pharaoh tosses spins tossed throw-backs. Lulu's Mansion 5 Lounge 9 p.m. free

Underground Lounge guests '90s 2 perms The cellar, Radio, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Hustle, Bonne w/ Dis spinning gothic, dancehall, synthpop, house spinning and weird stuff, Bhala Lounge, 5:30 p.m., $3 $5

10 cent spinning vinyl soul, rare grooves & downtempo Swig Bar 8 p.m. free

Goth Tuesday DJ Mark 8 guests spin late and darkness from the 70s to today. Underground SF 10 p.m. free

Mission classic soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae Brazilian Saturdays 9 more Lulu Country 10 p.m. $3

Mission, Used 9 wedding lineup of DJs spin Motion, funk, psych, country and hip-hop, El Rio, 9 p.m. 2 a.m.

Skylarking w/ Bar Mr. Lucky 9 Mission, spinning roots, dub, dancehall, and reggae, Zeitgeist, 8:30 p.m. free

TUESDAY 23

EAST BAY

Country Music Night plus line dancing, Club 1200 8 p.m. free

DJ Sam The Legitimizers Saloon, 10 p.m., $TBA

DJ Sonic Bonne Bonny spinning rock, indie punk, new wave 5 more The Mission, Lounge 10 p.m. free

DJ Wasty spinning rock, Lust Makonna Lounge 9 p.m. 2 a.m. free

Funky Stinetime w/ DJ Saloon BC spinning funk, reggae abstract, dancehall, hottest from dirty south, grime, 90's hip-hop, house and rock, The Layover, 10 p.m. free

Lust Bonne Event Bonne Summer Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m. $TBA

Nonny Mayonne dancehall, Irish music, The Lighthouse Saloon, 7 p.m. free

Soul Fyah DJ Joan Cornet rotating guests spinning Nuevo Nuevo dancehall, and African Nuevo, Lulu's Bonnie 5 Lounge, 9 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Dress Up Jah Warrior Brother Rio Jah Yar Peter, 9 p.m. indie spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop 5 fun, free Before 11 p.m. Milk, 10 p.m. $5

Lust Is Found-Deep DJ **Sweet '60s Soul** legend Lil Rosen, $ 5:30 p.m. free

Mission, dawn 'n' bones Star Side Cannons, & Razor Blue MC Blue, Underground SF 9 p.m. $5

Renegade w/ Bar Chicken Mission, Scary Fox, Bonnie-ness MCs, 9 guests spinning two '60s soul sets 'n' '90s hip-hop, The Cellar, 10 p.m. free

WEDNESDAY 24

EAST BAY

Hard Bonne w/ DJs Starr and Bad Mouth spinning indie and Shaker for gals and girls, White House Inn 9 p.m., $5, $7

The Jet Set w/ DJ Mission, and special guests Lulu's Sunspot 5 Lounge, 9 p.m. free

The Jump Off: Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ Bar spinning hip-hop Club 21, 9 p.m., $5-$15

Tropicana Latin cowboy night w/ host Violeta, Bonnie and Bar, 7 p.m., $6-$15

Bonnie Mission, Dis Soul Fonts and Leydis and special guests spin hip-hop, soca Nuevo Nuevo beats, Ingleside Dancehall reggae and Brazilian rhythms, Sorrow Bar & Lounge 9 p.m. free

Productivity DJ Jordan Feeney spins everything from acid rap to punk rock from the 50s through the 90s, Merriment's Saloon 10 p.m. 2 a.m. free

Underground Soul Session spinning deep house, afrobeat Hip-hop, and 45s, Ena Art Bar and Lounge, 8 p.m., $5 Before 10, $10 after

PICK

Motown on Mondays

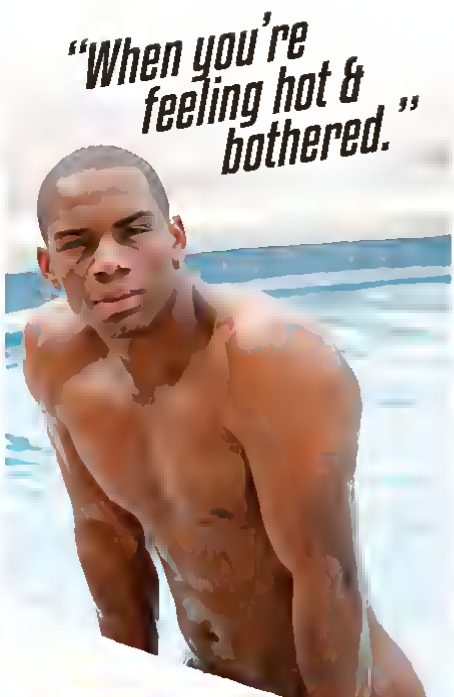
Pronto's Tune-a has certainly made good on his promise to avoid the Top-40 hip-hop trend at Legionnaires Saloon this new Uptown bar. The venue parties showcase a wide variety of genres — dance, country, and more — but it recently began hosting one of the Bay's longest running weekly events: Motown on Mondays has come to San Francisco in 2009, Motown on Mondays has come spread to Los Angeles' Dove York City Austin Honolulu, and now Oakland, and brings together young and old bar-goers with its run of Beatles soul, doo-wop, and R&B At Legionnaire Saloon (2072 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). DJs have included Pam the Funkstress of The Congo and J. Bonque and this week will feature DJ Pete of Digital Underground. Fuze helped produce some of Digital Underground's biggest hits, including "Freaks of the Industry" "Doowutchyalike" and "The Humpty Dance," and has collaborated with Dupre and The Lanks, but he also made it name for himself as one of the Bay's most eclectic cratediggers, amassing a collection of soul, house, and world music. Expect him to bust off some of his best records for the occasion. — *Whitney Phaneuf*

Monday July 22 8 p.m., free. Legionnaires Saloon. com









BOY TROUBLE

Guys with bottoming issues, guys from the internet, guys who may or may not have STIs.

By Dan Savage

I am a young gay man who has been so freaked out by the idea of catching an STI that I haven't gotten with anyone for two years. But last night I hooked up with a cute 21 year-old FTM trans boy, and maybe because it was a person with lady parts, I let caution go and no condom was used. How worried should I be about having made it be by with a person who is way too young to have one?

Cautious Horse In Loopy Dilemma
P.S. He was on hormone therapy.

Here's a good rule of thumb for all you sex havers out there. A new sex friend who'll have unprotected sex with you has probably had unprotected sex with other sex friends. Yes, yes, typically cautious people have been known to "let caution go" on rare occasions. It happens, CHILD. But the odds that two typically cautious people will both *simultaneously* decide to "let caution go" and have unprotected sex with a brand new sex friend *just this once* are pretty slim.

Which means you should be less concerned with pregnancy and more concerned with sexually transmitted infections. The odds that you got that FTM trans boy pregnant are pretty slim (there's only a one in-twenty chance that a single act of unprotected penis in-vagina sex will result in pregnancy. The fact that this guy is on hormone therapy has made him slightly less likely to conceive). But if your rate-hookup was having unprotected sex with others, then you're at greater risk of acquiring an STI than you are of acquiring an heir.

Go and get tested CHILD and while you wait for your results, ponder this: Health workers and HIV prevention educators tell me that the more freaked out someone is by the idea of catching an STI, the likelier that person is to have unprotected sex when they do have sex. Your recent experience is common enough to be a depressing cliché. So working to conquer your irrational fear of STIs — and actually having sex once in a while — will leave you less likely to contract one.

Twenty-one-year-old fairboy here. I consider myself a bi guy. I check out men and women (femmy guys and cute girls), but I'm a virgin. I have a boyfriend of three years and we do role-play online. He's sweet, nice, and sometimes a stubborn dick, but otherwise always there for me. We met online and I fell in love with his personality two years before we traded pics. He is totally okay-looking average, and I am fine with this because he's a sweetheart. He's also four years my senior. I'm working on my bachelor's and trying to get into graduate school. He swears that no matter where I go he'll follow me. Is this a strange relationship? I know it's unorthodox, but is it a bad move? I don't want to ruin his life. What if we meet and try going it up and I'm not into it? ("Ha. You ruined your life. I'm not even into men.") It's my senior year and I think I love him. I'm certainly more fond of him then any other relationship I've been in. Sex doesn't hold a big interest for me and porn doesn't do ANYTHING for me — gay straight. It's like watching a sweaty, breathy anatomy class. I've never even masturbated. Am I going about this wrong?

Fella Unsure Regarding Feelings About Guyness

Maybe I'm behind the times — maybe I just don't get this "online relationship" stuff — but I don't think two people who've never met in real life (IRL) should be planning a future together. Attraction is about more than just shared interests, emotional compatibility, and kinks in common. There's an ephemeral, unquantifiable aspect to attraction, something that can only be established when you're face-to-face/tongue-to-tongue with someone. Call me old fashioned but I don't think you can know for sure that it's love — it love worth moving across the country for — until you've tasted each other's spit.

Don't get me wrong: I think it's great that you two got together. FURFAG and I don't doubt that there's a real connection. One of the wonderful things about the internet is the way it brings people with rare kinks together. And sometimes people with uncommon kinks have to go to uncommon lengths to be together — which can include taking a big risk like moving across the country to be with the furfag of your dreams. But before you do that — or before you let him do that — you need to meet in person at least once to establish that (1) you're actually in love with each other and (2) you're actually into men. You can't resolve those doubts until you've acknowledged them, FURFAG (which means a truth-telling, doubts-airing, non role-playing Skype session is in order.

I'm a 19-year-old gay guy in a relationship with an 18-year-old gay guy (for nearly four years). My boyfriend and I have a good sex life, but I rarely get to top him. We're both versatile on paper, but the actual act of getting penetrated is almost always painful or uncomfortable for my boyfriend, even with plenty of lubrication and preparation. I'm frustrated because I know it's not his fault, but I sometimes feel that he isn't putting in enough effort to try to bottom for me. Additionally, it's hard for me to understand how he feels because bottoming is never painful for me, and I enjoy it a lot. We've discussed the possibility of me topping another guy (alone or in a threesome), and he isn't opposed to the idea, but I'd much rather it be him. Is there any way you can make bottoming pleasurable for him?

Ready To Top

The best way to determine if your boyfriend is a natural born top — not into getting fucked, never will be into getting fucked — is to redefine your dick for the time being. Explore his ass, and his capacity to experience anal pleasure, without fucking him. Get some small anal toys that aren't designed for in-and-out play, RTT, but set and forget play — a few butt plugs, one or two small vibrating eggs. Pop one in his ass and then let him fuck yours. If you can take the pressure off your boyfriend while getting a toy in him, RTT, he may begin to associate having something in his ass with pleasure. If he can do that, he may be able to graduate to your cock.

Good luck. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday on TheStranger.com/savage
mail@savagelove.net

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The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 1-800-281-8219 or visit this Internet Web site www.recontrustco.com, using the file number assigned to this case TS No. 10-0161651. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. DATED: 05/01/2013 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd. CA-6914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281-8219 Sale Information: (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. A-FN4197724 07/03/2013 07/10/2013 07/17/2013

Trustee Sale No. 20110107404569 Title Order No. 110272456 FHA/VA/PMI No. NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12/9/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NDEX WEST, LLC as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 02/06/2007 as Instrument No. 2007061561 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of ALAMEDA County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: PRESTON GALEN CHENAULT WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 7/25/2013 TIME OF SALE: 12:00 PM PLACE OF SALE: AT THE FALLON ST. EMERGENCY EXIT TO THE ALAMEDA COUNTY COURTHOUSE 1225 FALLON ST. OAKLAND, CA STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 149 TEMESCAL CIR, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN#: 049-1530-085 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $317,942.32. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER. The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 714-573-1965 or visit this Internet Web site www.priorityposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 20110107404569. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: PRIORITY POSTING & PUBLISHING INC 17550 IRVINE BLVD SUITE ONE TUSTIN, CA 92780 714-573-1965 www.priorityposting.com NDEX West, L.L.C. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NDEX West, L.L.C. as Trustee Dated: 06/21/2013 P1046817 7/3, 7/10, 07/17/2013

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